

The Lens and Eye



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Veiled 2
© Patricia Bochi

I took this image with a sheer mousseline scarf in front of the lens. I played with the back light to render the silhouetted figure amidst the folds of the scarf draping over the lens, as if emerging from some undefined architectural setting, to create mystery.

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April Competition Assignment: Negative Space

An image where the negative space plays an important role in enhancing the positive space occupied by the subject. The actual subject would occupy a relatively small portion of the frame. Examples include a bland sky as a background to a small cluster of trees far off in the distance, a nondescript wall that emphasizes the colors and form of a passing pedestrian, or a small sailboat floating in a vast body of water on a foggy morning. (Must be taken on or after April 1, 2023)

Electronic (EIC) competitors, please send your images as email attachments to nbccmdEcomp@gmail.com no later than 7:30 p.m., **Sunday, March 30.**

Print (PIC) competitors*, please send your images as email attachments to nbccmdPcomp@gmail.com no later than 7:30 p.m., on **Sunday, March 30.**

You are responsible for confirming with the coordinator that your [correctly formatted](#) entries have been received. Failure to do so may result in your images not being entered.

Each image entered must consist solely of photograph(s) captured by the member using a camera.

*Your mounted prints must be at the church by 7:15 p.m. on competition night.

Calendar

Events are **(V)IRTUAL** (on Zoom only) or **(I)N PERSON** only. Links will be sent by GordieGram. **Events start at 7:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise.**

- Apr 2** Competition: Negative Space (I)
- Apr 9** Program: Finding One's Own Photographic Voice with Alex Kilbee (V)
- Apr 16** Board Meeting (V)
- Apr 23** Program: Master Photographer with Nikhil Bahl (I)
- Apr 30** Program: Photo Essay (I)
- May 11** Field Trip: Historic Savage Mill



April Electronic Competition: Negative Space (I)

Judge Frank Gallagher

Frank Gallagher is a photographer and writer living in the Washington, DC, area who loves nature photography and spending time outdoors.

Frank built up his photography business following a 25-year career in nonprofit associations focused on education and technology, during which he developed extensive experience in visual storytelling and communications. These days, he mainly works with national and local nonprofit organizations, providing a variety of photographic services.

He's a member of the Silver Spring Camera Club, PSA, Nature Photographers Network and the North American Nature Photography Association and, for several years, handled NANPA's marketing and communications. Photography has been a passion of his since, as a child, he watched his dad carefully composing with a Graflex Speed Graphic camera.



April 9 Program: Finding One's Own Creative Voice with Alex Kilbee (V)

Alex Kilbee has 30 years of experience as an award-winning professional photographer. After studying at the prestigious Pretoria Technikon Photography School in the mid-90s, he has worked across various genres of photography. However, his first love is portrait photography. From 2009 to 2020, he ran Muse Portraits, a multiple-award-winning family portrait studio.



During the pandemic, while his studio in England was closed, Alex turned his attention to YouTube and shared his passion for photography. Since November 2020, his channel, The Photographic Eye, has gained over 200,000 subscribers, with the videos watched a total of 13,500,000 times. It is an online community of courses which, rather than focusing on gear, Alex hopes will inspire photographers of all abilities to embrace and develop the artistic side of the craft. For further information on The Photographic Eye see [his free community](#) or [his paid membership](#).



- Cherry Wyman, Programs Committee Chair



April 23 Program: Master Photographer: Nikhil Bahl (I)

Every year, Kent Mason puts together a Master Photographer program featuring someone who stands out as a photographer.

This year it is Nikhil Bahl. Nikhil is a professional photographer, visual storyteller, author, and educator with a deep connection to nature. Drawing inspiration from the natural world, he combines technical expertise with artistic vision to create compelling images that evoke emotion and reveal hidden beauty.

Through his "Experience Nature Photo Workshops and Tours," Nikhil inspires photographers to develop their creative voice while exploring stunning natural landscapes. As an environmentalist, he uses his photography and writing to advocate for the protection of natural habitats, encouraging others to appreciate and preserve the environment. His work has been widely published and exhibited in the Washington D.C. area and beyond.

In this program, Nikhil invites you to break free from traditional photographic conventions and explore a world where creativity knows no limits. The presentation challenges you to see beyond rules, encouraging experimentation with composition, light, and storytelling. Through inspiring visuals and insightful lessons, you'll discover fresh approaches to crafting impactful images. Embrace uncertainty, rethink perspectives, and unlock new possibilities in your photographic journey.



Nikhil invites you to redefine what a photograph can be—expressive, unconventional, and uniquely yours.

View Nikhil's work on [his website](#).

Be sure to join us in person!

- Kent Mason, Programs Committee



April 23 Program: Master Photographer with Nikhil Bahl (cont'd)



April 30 Program: Photo Essay Night (I)

This year's photo essay show will be presented in-person only at Faith Methodist Church on Montrose Road on Wednesday evening, April 30 at 7:30 pm. In addition to presenting a strong group of diverse essays, the evening will also include special refreshments and an opportunity to spend some social time with club members.

The art of making photo essays has been taken to a new level by the multiple apps now available, which have created different formatting options and allowed the smooth addition of video clips into essays.

While all are enjoyable, this year's essays also demonstrate different photographic genres that can be made into compelling essays. Nature enthusiasts will especially enjoy Ruiqing Pamboukian's stunning photos of soaring and combative eagles and Rob Barkin's exceptional capture of whales in Alaska.



All street photographers will find themselves immersed by Peter Dunner's depiction of the streets of New York. Rodolfo Ghirlando, a first time essayist who quickly mastered the skill, will take you through an "album" of the streets of DC.

In documentary style, Nancy Wolejsza will be revisiting Vietnam with friends who were there during the war. Max Kantzer will share the hardships and highlights of Sub-Saharan Africa today.

For those who travel, journey along the Silk Road with Mark Segal and experience the color and diversity of India through Nancy Morrison's essay.

So put April 30th on your calendars and come join us for an enjoyable evening of photography and conversation. Please come on time to get good seats and to allow us to start on time.

- Nancy Morrison, Photo Essay Committee



April 30 Program: Photo Essay Night (I)



May 28 Program: Body of Work (BoW) Critique (I)

You won't want to miss this unique educational experience/program, brought back by popular demand again this year. Eight individuals of varying levels of photographic expertise will submit between 8 and 15 images that they would like to have critiqued as a collection. Your submission must also include an artist's statement, providing to the audience what you hope to communicate with your collection of images.

The critique will be conducted by Sarah Salomon and Alan Sisen, two of our most accomplished photographers. They will review the images and artist's statement prior to the program night and share their comments during the program. The critique will take into account the self-declared level of the photographer. Both Sarah and Alan concentrate their own photography on BoWs instead of on individual, standalone photos. They believe that a group of several interrelated photographs can have much more impact than a single photo.

Importantly, a BoW can feed an exhibit, a digital book, or a portfolio to show potential clients or just friends. BoWs are a critical stepping stone to advance your photography and, as in many things, Alan and Sarah will show how the "whole can be greater than the sum of its parts."

You can see the submissions to the BoW critique held starting 2019 in our club's Members Only Info, Bodies of Work Presentations. However, the

comments on the BoW's are only available the night of the critique so you won't want to miss the program.

Background material on Bodies of Work, originally presented by Roy Sewall and Alan in October 2018, is available in our Members' Only area as well; it is found in the section on Program Handouts.

If you have any questions about **participating** in the BoW critique, please email [Toni Robinson](#).

If you have specific questions about **preparing** a BoW, please email [Alan Sisen](#) or [Sarah Solomon](#).

If you would like to submit a BoW, please [email your intent](#) to **no later than April 2**. Preference will be given to first-time submitters if we have more than 8 members requesting to participate, but all are encouraged.

Requirements for submissions:

- Each BoW should comprise 8 to 15 electronic images.
- Please provide an artist's statement in a Word document.
- The BoWs should be targeted to general viewers, not to photographers (e.g., a BoW describing a photographic technique is not appropriate but a BoW using a specific technique is appropriate).
- Prepare the images as 1920 x 1200 jpegs (same as NBCC electronic image competition with the following naming convention:

May 28 Program: Body of Work (BoW) Critique (I) (cont'd)

Your name-Level-Theme

Sequence Number (where Level is your self-proclaimed photographic proficiency, regardless of whether you compete or not). For example: Sally Smith-Intermediate-Empty Spaces-01

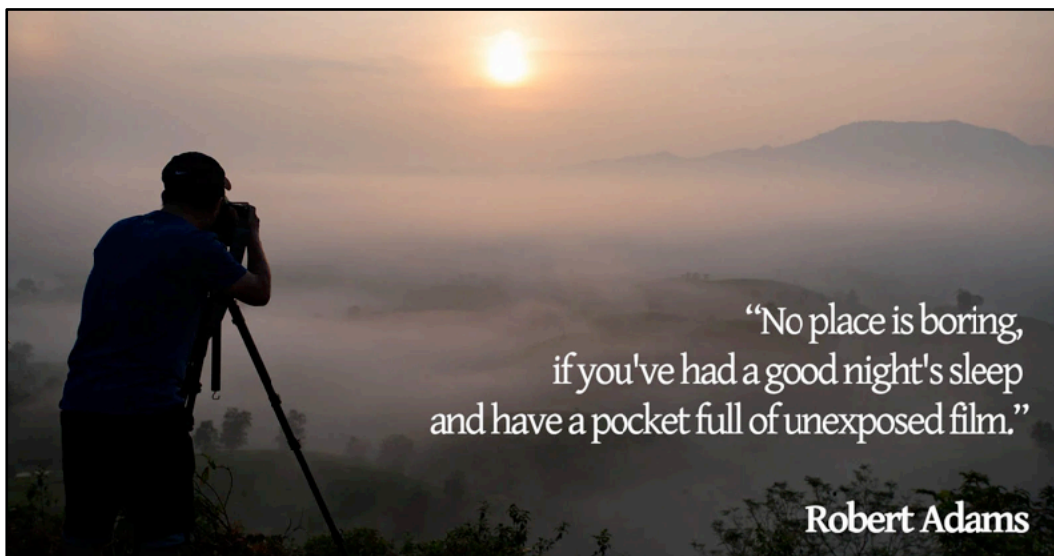
- Submit the BoW images and artist statement in a [single email](#). If the size of the attachments is too large for a single email, you may split the submission into two emails, but make it clear that you are sending two emails.
- Submit BoW images and artist statement any time starting April 30, but no later than May 21.

- Toni Robinson, Programs Committee

The work of most
photographers
would be
improved
immensely if
they could do one
thing: get rid of
the extraneous

William Albert Allard

American documentary
photographer (b1937)



“No place is boring,
if you've had a good night's sleep
and have a pocket full of unexposed film.”

Robert Adams

May 11 Field Trip: Historic Savage Mill

We are planning a field trip to the Historic Savage Mill for Saturday, May 10.

The mill is a restored 19th century cotton mill housing antique shops, art studios, eateries, and other shops. It is

located at 8600 Foundry Street, Savage, MD 20763. See [the website](#) for more information.

We will meet at the mill at 10a.m.

To sign up, email [Anne Miller](#).

- Beth Altman, Chair, Field Trips

“

#SHOOTDOTEIT

**WITH CREATING,
WE ARE LITERALLY
BRINGING
SOMETHING INTO
EXISTENCE THAT
DIDN'T EXIST
BEFORE.**

- Montana Dennis

”

Splinters from the Board

Sometimes organizations operate one way for a long time solely because that it is the way things have always been done. There is plenty to be said for continuing a practice if it has worked well in the past. But that shouldn't be an excuse against re-examining our policies or simply trying something new.

In that vein, the Board decided at our February meeting to lift our policy of maintaining a cap on our membership. For the first time in a long time, we will be accepting all applications (and renewals) for the membership year that begins on May 15 without adhering to a rigid cap.

Currently, we limit the number of members to 175, which was adjusted several years ago. The reason for the cap was a concern that our space at the Faith United Methodist Church could not accommodate a larger group. However, we haven't had a problem with crowding at our meetings, especially since we resumed meeting in person after the pandemic.

With this new policy, anyone on the wait list will be invited to join at the same time current members receive their renewal invitation. This will end the practice of a wait list, so that subcategory of limited privileges will be eliminated.

The Board will review the policy in 2027 to see how the new policy is working out and if there have been unintended consequences.

This is not the first change the Board has initiated. Recently, we had a program night devoted to print that was a real success. Members listened to print expert and longtime member Alan Sislen discuss the finer points of print management and then reviewed member prints in small groups, guided by members with print experience to see how we could make the prints better.

In addition, in recent years, we have initiated out-of-town field trips, organizing trips to New York City, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh, assisted with a club subsidy. (This followed several activities made possible with an anonymous gift.) We will continue to expand special trips and are currently looking for members who want to help plan these trips. Those interested should contact [James Corbett](#).

Expect our initiatives to continue. Our recent member survey indicated members want more opportunities to express their photography in new ways, especially for intentional camera movement. We can expect to see innovations in this area and others in the future.

- *Robert Barkin, President*

Community Outreach : Phabulous Photographers

Last month, the members of PCR's Phabulous Photographers were asked to find images that show geometric shapes. They were reminded that those shapes could be ovals, circles, squares, triangles, cylinders, spheres, or even cones. Their job was to find and make interesting images with those shapes.



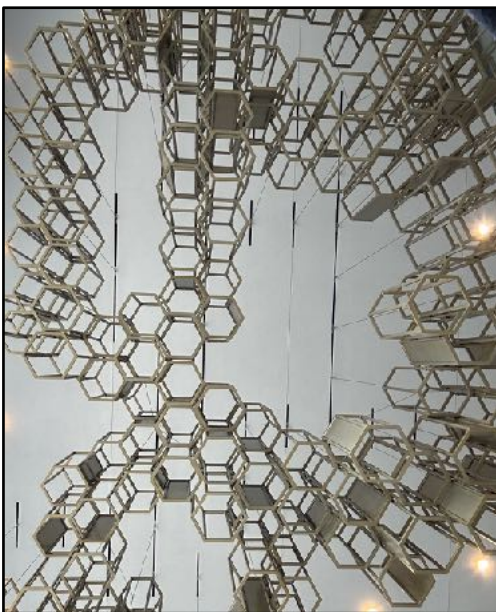
© Thomas F



© Michael A



© Mark F



© Elaine F

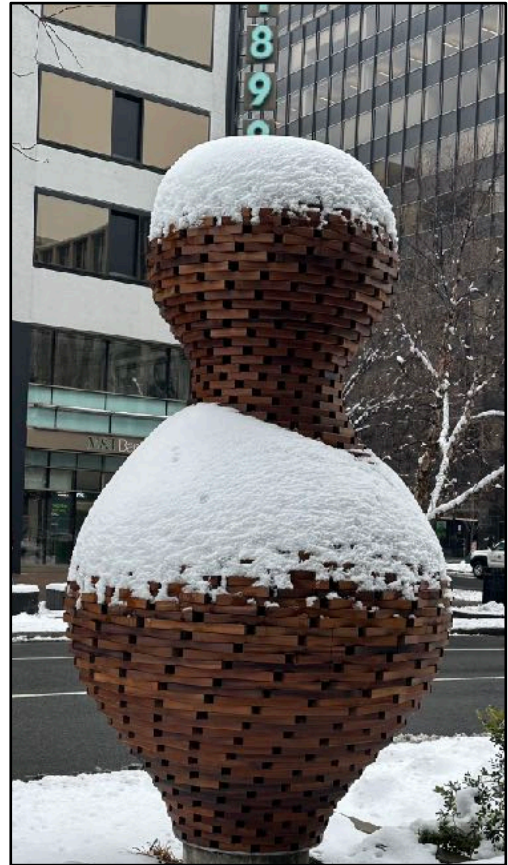


© Mark F

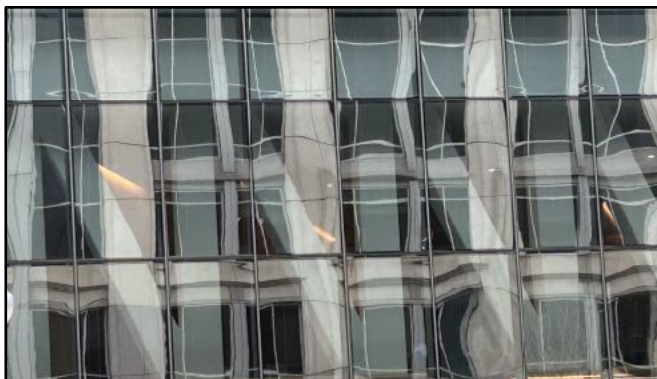
Community Outreach: Phabulous Photographers (cont'd)



© Sam F



© Sam F



© Elaine F

- Judy Switt, Phabulous Photographers
Liaison

Club News

Upcoming Membership Renewal

Our membership year currently runs from May 15 - May 14 of the following year. Historically, we have had a membership cap and we invite wait listers to join in as existing members choose not to renew. The membership renewal for 2025-2026 will have some major changes, although many things will remain the same.

What changes:

1. **The membership cap will be removed.** The Board voted at the February meeting to implement the change starting this renewal cycle and revisit the impact in February 2027.
2. **The wait list will be eliminated.** Anyone currently on the wait list will receive an invitation to join at the same time the members receive their renewal invitation. Those wait listers who do not submit their membership application by May 15 will no longer receive GordieGrams, will be unable to attend Zoom meetings, classes, or field trips. As guests, everyone is always welcome at our in person meetings (which are documented on our public website).

What stays the same:

1. Renewal cycle will start one month before the renewal date of May 15. Members not renewing by May 15 will no longer receive GordieGrams, be members in the chat group, have access to the Members Only area of the website, compete in competitions, attend Zoom

meetings, classes, or field trips, or get club discounts to external organization events.

2. Each member will receive an invitation to the renewal application, pre-filled with personal information (name, contact info, etc.).
3. Payment will be made via PayPal at the end of the renewal application.

Please direct questions to Toni at the [membership email](#).

- Toni Robinson, Membership Chair

Education

Preparations are underway for the 2025-2026 NBCC Educational Programs. We are looking for more educational groups for the NBCC members. We welcome past and new facilitators for the upcoming year.

If you are interested in leading a group, or have questions, please email the [Education Committee](#). Make sure you contact the education committee and not the personal email of its members. We encourage responding by March 31, if possible.

We look forward to hearing from you as we start preparing for an exciting year of learning and image creation.

- Jill Randell & Lorraine Vinci, NBCC Education Committee Co-Chairs

Club News (cont'd)

Exhibits

The NBCC Glenview Mansion exhibit "The Art of Nature," runs from March 30 until May 9. The opening reception at Glenview Mansion takes place on Sunday, March 30, from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Come and see more than 100 stunning photos by NBCC members! The house and gardens are also beautiful, especially with spring blossoms.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Drop by Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m and 2:00 p.m.to 5:00 p.m.

The exhibit is closed on the weekends due to rentals for weddings and other special events.

The address is:
Glenview Mansion
603 Edmonston Drive
Rockville MD

This is not Glenstone Museum in Potomac!

- Kathryn Mohrman, Chair, Exhibits Committee

PSA Member News

The second round of the Individual Landscape competition results were announced recently. Judy Burr's image "Jutting Out," received a Merit Award. It appears that there are advantages to submitting monochrome images.

There is one more Individual Competition this year in all categories. The Individual Competitions provide a cost-free opportunity for PSA members to try their images in the competition. I recommend all Individual PSA members give these competitions a try next year since the deadline for the third one this session is April 1. Find more information [here](#).

- Judy Burr, PSA Representative



Club News (cont'd)

Print Program

The Our limited-registration print program on February 26 drew an enthusiastic group of print wannabees and printmakers. Our own Alan Sislen presented tips on printing, particularly the difference in photographic papers, methods of printing, and the cost comparison of using specific printers and inks. Members then had a chance to examine closeup the same image shown on many different types of papers. They also presented their own prints for comments as they rotated between tables facilitated by Rich Chitty, Jean Solari, Dick Pelroy, and Cat Simmons. The successful evening was a joint effort between Competition Chair Judy Switt, Alan Sislen and the Programs Committee. Thanks to everyone for your participation!

- Cherry Wyman, Chair, Programs Committee





Mid-Atlantic
**PHOTO
VISIONS**

Planning for the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions (MAPV) show is well underway. The show will be held the first weekend of November 2025 (November 1 and 2) at a new location: the Mason Center at the George Mason University Arlington Campus. This is a much closer location for NBCC members and is within walking distance of the Virginia Square-GMU Metro station. There are numerous dining options. Also, the Mason Center is near the Arlington District Camera location, one of the MAPV sponsors.

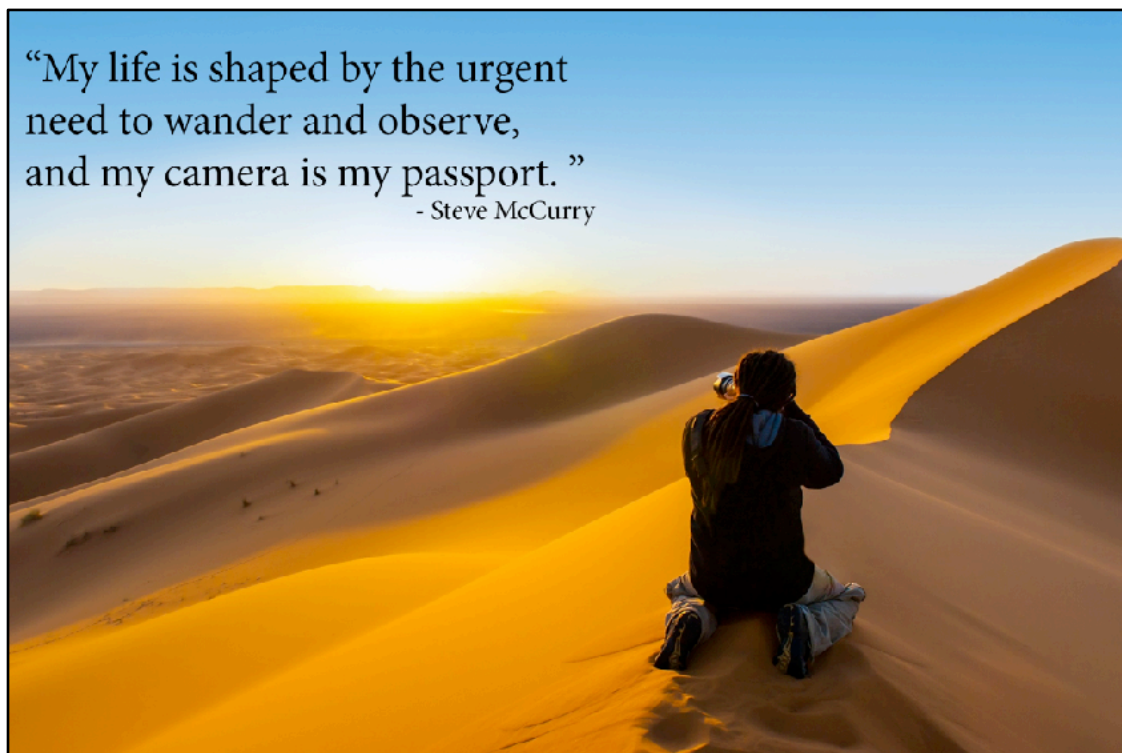
The show will offer a lineup of excellent speakers, hands-on workshops, a vendor area featuring camera

manufacturers and other national and local photography firms, as well as a large exhibition of nature and photo art images from MAPV club members.

NBCC members may submit images for the MAPV Photo Art and Nature competitions between August 10 and September 7. You may submit six Nature images and six Photo Art images in a variety of different categories. More information to follow.

Registration will open this summer.

- *Don Tobin, MAPV Representative*





PSA News

PSA has made some changes in the website and has a new address: <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/>.

One benefit of membership is online courses. Currently there are several being offered and include: street photography, history of photography, portraits and digital photography. There is no end to learning about our passion of photography.

The March issue of the PSA Journal included a lot of information about the 2025 Photo Festival which will be held in Portland, Oregon from September 24-27. Tours and workshops will be offered.

For me, the most interesting article in the issue is "Reconnecting with the Joy of Photography". The author encourages photographers to set out with openness to see what we can see.

She suggests we look at our own backyards, nearby places, and in our homes without the pressure of a goal. We benefit from just having fun and not always worrying about competition or creating art. Personally, I have had fun with using my phone and iPad for creating all types of creative pictures. They have been more successful in exhibitions than I ever expected.

Recently I served as travel judge for the Chapters Circuit and the three judges looked for something different. Many images were those that we see frequently in competitions and they lose their impact if we have seen the image many times. Instead of taking the same picture others take, we should look for our own view.

- Judy Burr, PSA Representative



Competition Results: February (Nature)

Judge: Josh Steele

PRINTS

Intermediate (6 entries)

1st	Bennett Fletcher	Holding On (Fiery-Throated Hummingbird)
2nd	Richard Chitty	The Warmth of Sunrise

The February Print Competition
was postponed due to snow.

Advanced (9 entries)

1st	William James	Smith Lake, GA
2nd	Peter Dunner	Bluebird of Happiness
3rd	Nikos Zacharakis	Pelican Portrait

Intermediate Print Winners

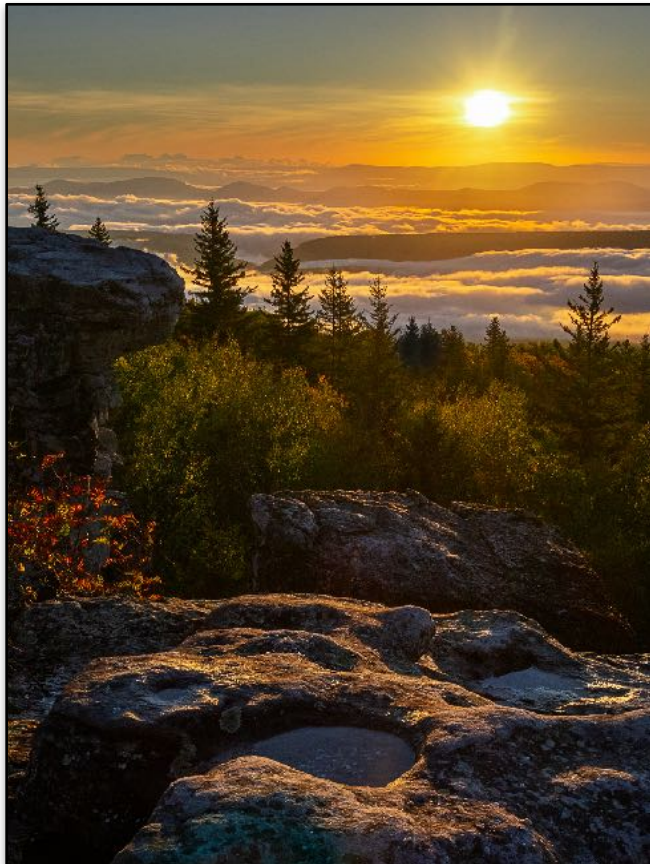
February: Nature

1st Place

Holding On (Fiery-Throated Hummingbird)

© **Bennett Fletcher**

I had several opportunities to photograph birds such as this fiery-throated hummingbird on a photo tour to Costa Rica during the rainy season last October. A number of restaurants there have covered porches overlooking hummingbird habitat, so our photo equipment was kept mostly dry. On arrival, our guides would replace plastic bird feeders with natural flowering bouquets and would keep the hummingbirds interested by periodically spraying nectar on the flowers. I practiced the technique of focusing manually on a subject before locking in with autofocus. I shot only in raw (no pre-capture) at 1/4000 and 11,400 ISO for this capture.



2nd Place

The Warmth of Sunrise

© **Richard Chitty**

Our West Virginia photo tour gave our group an opportunity to photograph the landscapes around Bear Rock before and after sunrise. The clear conditions moments after sunrise provided a warm glow that brought out the textures and colors of the rocks and vegetation on the ridge and highlighted shapes of the clouds in the valleys below us.

Advanced Print Winners

February: Nature

1st Place
Smith Lake, GA
© **William James**

The lighting was very soft when I arrived at a small lake early on a foggy November morning at Smith State Park, northwest of Savannah, GA, and launched a kayak. My basically drab raw images needed processing to enhance the natural fall colors. In Photoshop, I applied several kinds of adjustments (Hue/Saturation, Selective Color, Color Balance and more). I selectively boosted the texture of the tree in the foreground using its "Smart Sharpen". The workshop leader, Virginian Joseph Rossbach, had trucked in the kayak upon which I shot as I paddled about on the open water. The camera was hand-held.



2nd Place
Bluebird of Happiness
© **Peter Dunner**

I was attracted to this bird because of the iridescent colors of his/her/their feathers and the remarkable detail I got. Sometimes things are just really pretty without much action.



3rd Place
Pelican Portrait
© **Nikos Zacharakis**

I took this shot on the coast of La Jolla, CA, north of San Diego. The area is rich in inhabitant animals, such as seals, birds, and pelicans. A bunch of them were residing on the side of a big rock enjoying a sunny day. Undisturbed by my presence and the sound of my shutter, they allowed me to take their portrait.



Competition Results: March (Shooting Through)

Judge: Josh Steele

PRINTS

Intermediate (6 entries)

1st	Cheryl Gillerman	Water Bottle Perspective
2nd	Lisa Maco	Man of Many Minds

Advanced (6 entries)

1st	Peter Dunner	Legoland Has Been Occupied!
2nd	Nikos Zacharakis	Silo from Inside

ELECTRONIC IMAGES

Novice (19 entries)

1st	Priyali Sen	A Mom
2nd	Janice Solomon	Admiring the View
3rd	Patricia Bochi	Veiled 2
HM	Andrew Cohen	Evening Commute
HM	Ivan Kovac	All but Forgotten

Intermediate (31 entries)

1st	Bob Mazziotta	Long Commute
2nd	Jill Randell	NYC Street Vendor
3rd	Bob Mazziotta	Next Stop Home
HM	Geoff Hornseth	Too Small to See
HM	Rodolfo Ghirlando	I Have a Dream

Competition Reminder

Please remember that in ALL competition categories, "Identifying marks such as a name or title must not appear on the image," as stated in Competition Rule #10.

Advanced (27 entries)

1st	Ruiqing Pamboukian	Icelandic Soul
2nd	Chet Stein	Jailbird
3rd	Ruiqing Pamboukian	Reflections of a Gaze
HM	David Terao	Peruvian Lily
HM	Dick Knapp	Florentine Butcher
HM	Robert Barkin	The Last Bookstore
HM	Toni Robinson	Smoked Chef and Kabobs

NBCC Competition Results

Cumulative Scores Through March 2025

PRINTS

Intermediate

36	Richard Chitty
30	Cheryl Gillerma
27	Lisa Maco
24	Christina Papakonstantinou
19	Tom Marchessault
17	Kathryn Mohrman
10	Bennett Fletcher

Advanced

47	Peter Dunner
44	Nikos Zacharakis
34	Tammy Trocki
16	Dick Pelroy
10	Bruce Cyr
10	William James
9	Steven Frahm
6	Jack Rosenberg

ELECTRONIC IMAGES

Novice

47	Janice Solomon
42	Simon Bradbury
36	Patricia Bochi
28	Priyali Sen
24	Mark McDonough
22	Ilona Linnoila
20	Judy Ackerman
18	Ivan Kovac
15	Riko Saidel
12	Andrew Cohen
12	Margaret Colaianni
12	Jim Goldberg
10	Cheryl Gillerma
9	Hugh Moore
8	Nolan Rappaport
6	Pauline Jaffe
6	George Kiebusinski
6	Jane Mahaffie

ELECTRONIC IMAGES

Intermediate

64	Rodolfo Ghirlando
62	Jill Randell
54	Bob Mazziotta
34	Debby Berlyne
32	Cherry Wyman
29	Anne Miller
26	Tom Gross
21	David Mosher
21	Steve Parker
18	Isaac Afrangui
18	Don Tobin
16	Bennett Fletcher
16	Bob Murphy
15	Mark Leatherman
12	Larry Brauer
12	Quentin Fisher
12	Don Picard
12	Peter Winik
9	Meg Clarke
6	Marjorie Bloom
6	Steven Hannes
6	Geoff Hornseth
6	Jennifer Nguyễn
6	Audrey Rothstein
6	Erico Silva

Advanced

69	Ruiqing Pamboukian
60	Dick Knapp
55	Toni Robinson
39	James Corbett
36	Robert Barkin
36	Lee Goodwin
33	Chet Stein
23	David Terao
18	Max Kantzer
15	Bruce Davis
15	Eric Schweitzer
12	Jose Cartas
12	John Willis
6	Cheryl Gillerma
6	Anne Miller
6	Nancy Wolejsza

Intermediate Print Winners

March: Shooting Through

1st Place
Water Bottle Perspective
© **Cheryl Gillerman**

I wanted to create something unique, so I decided to shoot through a plastic water bottle. The bottle had to be large enough to fit over my lens. The bottle I chose had wide ridges. Using a tin snip, I cut the top and bottom of the bottle so it could fit nicely over my lens. The simple setting of the tree in a snow scene in black and white highlighted the shoot-through technique.



2nd Place
A Man of Many Minds
© **Lisa Maco**

I created this image of my husband using a 1'x4' strip box with grid and orange gel pointing directly at his face. Then I added a linear prism to my lens, turning it to the angle I liked.



Advanced Print Winners

March: Shooting Through

1st Place
Legoland Has Been Occupied!
© **Peter Dunner**

Although I was perplexed by the topic, I came up with the idea of a set up in a lightbox. Having gotten good at Legos, thanks to my grandsons, I set this up using a scarf as a background to simulate leaves and shooting through a slit in bubble wrap (the kind with small bubbles). The idea came to me because of Legos being made in Denmark and if Danish controlled Greenland can be a target for a hostile takeover, why not Legoland (a real place in Denmark). Then hostile powers could levy a tax worldwide on Legos!



2nd Place
Silo from Inside
© **Nikos Zacharakis**

I took this image during a visit to a farm. An old standing silo with a small window opening on the side sparked my curiosity for its interior. I extended my arm and camera through it and I took a few photos leading to this one. The light from the top allowed nice play between light and shadows, as well as balanced complementary colors.



Novice EIC Winners

March: Shooting Through

1st Place
A Mom
© **Priyali Sen**

I was at Moms Demand Action's Advocacy Day Rally in Annapolis on January 30th, when I saw this woman with grief etched on her face and a sign that would break anyone's heart. She was one of several "survivors" who had come that day, turning their personal tragedy to activism for ending gun violence.



2nd Place
Admiring the View
© **Janice Solomon**

I took this photo through the legs of a giant stone troll in Iceland. I was trying to capture the mountains in the background when a couple tourists got in the way. It turned out to be even better with them in the image, admiring the beautiful landscape.



3rd Place
Veiled 2
© **Patricia Bochi**

I took this image with a sheer mousseline scarf in front of the lens. I played with the back light to render the silhouetted figure amidst the folds of the scarf draping over the lens, as if emerging from some undefined architectural setting, to create mystery.



Intermediate EIC Winners

March: Shooting Through

1st Place
Long Commute
© **Bob Mazziotta**

I was on my way to a Capitals game and decided to bring a camera to shoot some of the players during warm-ups with the "Shoot Through" assignment in mind. I was actually thinking of getting a shot of a player possibly using the openings used by the press photographers but including the opening in the image. I soon realized these areas were not accessible to the public, so I went with the shots I took on the metro getting there.



2nd Place
NYC Street Vendor
© **Jill Randell**

On a NYC trip to photograph abstract architecture, I ran into this iconic street vendor cooking kabobs. The kiosk, filled with smoke, held my attention while taking shots that aimed to capture some details in his face through the smoke.

3rd Place
Next Stop Home
© **Bob Mazziotta**

This woman was intently reading her phone, although she appears to be dozing off. This was also shot on my way to the Capitals game where I was expecting to get some images for the assignment, but the situation presented itself on my way there.



Advanced EIC Winners March: Shooting Through

1st Place
Icelandic Soul
© **Ruiqing Pamboukian**

I captured this portrait in late February in Iceland, where I was immediately drawn to these magnificent horses. This black and white image encapsulates the essence of the Icelandic horse - strong, resilient, yet profoundly soulful. Its windswept mane frames a gaze filled with quiet wisdom, reflecting the untamed beauty of the rugged landscapes it calls home. I know I will return to photograph these incredible creatures again, drawn by their spirit and presence.



2nd Place
Jailbird
© **Chet Stein**

The image was taken last summer on the first day of a Lindblad/National Geographic trip to Alaska. On the way to board the ship, there was a stop at a Raptor Rehab Center outside of Sitka. Given that I spend most of my photography time in the wild, I felt a good deal of sympathy for these majestic birds. Unfortunately this proud creature is one that cannot be returned to the wild.



3rd Place
Reflections of a Gaze
© **Ruiqing Pamboukian**

This studio portrait captures a young woman's introspective gaze as she looks into a mirror, her expression teetering between quiet confidence and contemplation. By intentionally shooting through her blurred hair in the foreground, the composition creates an added sense of intimacy and depth. The interplay of sharpness and softness enhances the mood, guiding the viewer's focus toward the subject's rich expression. I love to use mirrors for such portrait shots. The use of mirrors not only introduces an element of mystery but also deepens the storytelling through reflections, light, and shadow.



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