

Cameras

The Newsletter of the NIH Camera Club, Bethesda, MD Vol. 59 (10); June 2020



**“Gorilla with my Eyes”
By Diane Poole**



The NIH CAMERA CLUB

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June 1: Deadline for submissions: Image of the year (see pg 3)
 June 9: Meeting 7pm (see pg 3)
 June 14: Deadline for MPA Photography Contest (see pg 6)



NIH Camera Club June 9th at 7pm Will be held on ZOOM

June End of Year Awards and Photos of the Year

In addition to club business, the election of new officers, and our annual awards, at our year end Zoom meeting on Tuesday **June 9, 2020** we will also hold competitions for the **Color and Monochrome Images of the Year**. In each of these categories you may enter up to two images that you submitted to any club competition (digital or prints) or any critique during the current NIH Camera Club year (**September 2019 to May 2020**); it is not necessary that your submissions won an award. There will be no Novice or Advanced classes and judging will be done by your fellow club members using a numerical rating system. No points are awarded to the winners of this competition. You can submit your entries now:

- To submit your entries for the Color Image of the Year, go to the NIH Camera Club website and submit your images (two maximum) as you usually would for a **Competition** choosing the competition date June 9, 2020.
- To submit your entries for the Monochrome Image of the Year, go to the NIH Camera Club website and submit your images (two maximum) as you usually would for a **Critique** choosing the competition date June 9, 2020.

The deadline for submissions is Sunday June 1st. Shortly afterward everyone in the club will receive a link to an on line gallery of the submissions and voting instructions. Voting will end on Sunday **June 7**.

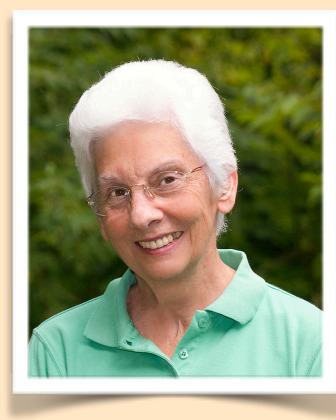
A ZOOM link will be sent a few days ahead of the meeting. You do not need a video cam to participate.



President's Chat

May 2020

By Margaret Sprott



We've survived another month of social distancing and I think we've all remained safe. At least I hope so. I'm also beginning to think we are having late spring weather and will probably start complaining about the heat soon.

We are planning for the June Zoom meeting which will be quite different from our usual end-of-year party but we can still talk to each other, make the awards and see which of you will be named photographers of the year. **Gosia Klosek and Vickie Allin** will be announcing the awards. The election for Secretary and Treasurer will also be conducted by **Stan Collyer**. We need a quorum to accomplish that so I hope you all join in to our meeting.

The board has decided that we won't have any print Photographers of the Year because there is no way to collect prints safely and judging a digital image of a print is not quite the same as seeing a print. Instead we will have a color digital and monochrome digital competition for two Photographers of the Year. Each member may enter two color images and two monochrome images. There will not be novice and advanced categories. The images you submit must have been entered into a competition or critique session this past club year and can be a digital image of a print that had been entered. The images do not have to have won anything. You will probably have received **Jim Turner's** instructions about this by the time you read this.

I have been watching some of the webinars that are being offered these days. I've been especially satisfied with two on-line workshops by Tim Grey where I've learned a lot about Lightroom and Photoshop. I've also watched some of the PSA and MPA webinars which are free and have also been helpful. I've decided that I might as well get used to this kind of education because it does not look like we'll be meeting in big groups anytime soon. For more on this topic see Dick's Rep Rap.

You will be receiving galleries from **Melissa Park** where you can rate the digital images of the year so be sure to complete that by the deadline that is mentioned. You will also receive the link from **Quentin Fisher** so you'll be able to join the Zoom meeting. I am hoping my internet connection will "behave" this time so that I don't miss any of the meeting.

I'm looking forward to "seeing" all of you at our end-of-year meeting. I intend to have some snacks with my wine and pretend I'm partying with all of you.



MPA Corner

June 2020

by Linda Eisenstadt, NIHCC
Rep to Maryland Photography
Alliance (MPA)

MPA@MDPhotoAlliance.org



The MPA website is: <https://www.mdphotoalliance.org> MPA is launching its Facebook Page. All 20 MPA camera clubs are welcome to post on this site. Examples of the way the camera clubs could use this site are: meetings, topics and judges; Photographs from the winners of the monthly competition; Awards the club has won (PSA newsletter and website); Awards club members have received from outside organizations; Field trips; Highlights of members; Newsletter; and others to be determined. I will be the main moderator but MPA encourages we have more than 1 moderator. Examples of moderators could be anyone involved in the above suggested topics. The moderators would only have to post when they have information to be circulated and should not take more than an hour of your time. The NIHCC Directors/Committee chairs agree that NIH should be involved in this MPA project BUT I can not do this alone. I am primarily involved as a representative to MPA and only occasionally participate in the club's activities. PLEASE VOLUNTEER to be a moderator.

There are several confirmed webinars and some that are still in the works. These webinars can allow 1,000 attendees. The following are scheduled:

5/28 – Mollie Isaacs, *Lightroom Unleashed* – 2:00 pm**

6/9 – Hazel Meredith, *Turn Ho-Hum into a Work of Art* – 4:00 pm**

6/24 – Live Webinar to Announce the 4th Annual Contest Award Winners and planning to have the judges make remarks

7/7 – Chuck Kimmerle, *Black & white Landscape Photography*

Week of July 20 – Charles Needle, *Impressionistic Photography*

8/18 – Cole Thompson, *Why Black & White*

****This information was sent to the NIH list serve on May 21.**

Right now, the webinars are held during the day but there is discussion of evening webinars.

MPA has a new section on its website - **MPA Artist Spotlight**, highlighting the upcoming speakers. It can be found at: <https://www.mdphotoalliance.org/artistspotlight>

If you missed Sean Lo's webinar on May 16, you could click on the above link, scroll down and you will see the link to his webinar. It is 2 hours long.

2020 Photo Competition – The deadline is June 14th. See the flyer in this newsletter. The winners of this competition will be announced on a live webinar on June 24th.

2020 Exhibits – As was done last year, the top scored photographs will be shown in several galleries. They are:

- Gallery Show at the Columbia Art Center, Columbia, MD, from September 11, 2020 to October 3, 2020. This Gallery Show is expected to be among the largest in the State of Maryland.
- Gallery Show at the Maryland House of Delegates, Annapolis, MD
- 2020 "Odyssey of Light" Seminar in October at Notre Dame of Maryland University.
- **Of course, these shows are dependent on the state of Covid 19.**

MPA Photography Grant Program Activities (funds are given back to clubs for each member that attends):

9/12/2020 – Night Photo Shoot at Blackwater Nature Wildlife Refuge. Robert Sullivan will lead this activity. He is a volunteer at Blackwater and is obtaining special permission for this outing. The new moon will be 9/17 and the Milky Way will be seen from 8:30-11:00 pm. Robert will be providing a 90-minute training off site; the location will be the Dorchester Center for the arts in Cambridge. Robert will provide 2-3 instructors at no fee (1 instructor for every 6 photographers) The rain date is 9/13, if both dates are bad, the new date would be 10/17/2020.

The activities below are hoping to be rescheduled:

*Nature and Wildlife Overnight at the Bronx Zoo with Sean Lo. There is discussion if this event can be rescheduled. Those that had registered for this event have been notified.

*Baltimore: Photo shoot of the SS John Brown. This ship will hopefully return to Baltimore in October. MPA will expect a large turnout.

Odyssey of Light Seminar - A NEW DATE in October is being discussed.

Speakers are Stephen Johnson, Ian Plant and Eileen Rafferty have agreed to the new date and are looking forward to presenting to you.

4th Annual Photography Contest



Maryland
Photography Alliance

The Submission Page is Now Open



Maryland
Photography Alliance

<https://www.mdphotoalliance.org/contest-2020>

The Submission Deadline is June 14, 2020

The Maryland Photography Alliance (MPA) is a union of regional photography and camera clubs throughout the State of Maryland. This contest is the largest digital-image, interclub photography contest of the year. **The contest is restricted to members of at least one of the following clubs:**

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Arundel Camera Club | Harford County Photography Group |
| Baywater Camera Club | Howard County Photographers |
| Baltimore Camera Club | Montgomery County Camera Club |
| Bowie-Crofton Camera Club | Mountain Christian Church Camera Group |
| Carroll County Camera Club | NIH Camera Club |
| Central Maryland Photographers Guild | North Bethesda Camera Club |
| Creative Exposure Baltimore | Photographers of Washington/Balto. Metro |
| Creative Photography Society | Rossmoor Camera Club of Silver Spring |
| Gaithersburg Camera Club | Silver Spring Camera Club |
| Goddard Photography Club | Tidewater Camera Club |

No Cost to Participate!

4 Categories to Pick From:

Maryland Flag – Must include the MD flag, or some representation – real or imagined.

Dramatic Weather – A depiction of dramatic weather (snow, rain, fog, wind, sleet), anywhere in the world.

Nighttime – Images outdoors at night, between dusk and dawn.

Cityscape – Any city viewed as a scene or an artistic representation of the physical aspects of a city or urban area. It is the urban equivalent of a landscape.

Top Images are Displayed at a Gallery Show.

Check this site frequently for updates.

Send questions to mpa@mdphotoalliance.org

June 2020



PSA Rep Rap June 2020 By Dick Sprott



Most of us are finding that we have more time than usual to work on our photography learning while we are sheltering in place; using Zoom meetings, the books we bought but never read, our archives of photos we never processed and of course, webinars. Some of the webinars we hear about are free, but many are not. Personally, I haven't found any real correlation between the quality of the costly webinars and free ones. That may be my personal bias, but it is worth thinking about. Do you routinely delete pitches for webinars with a cost or do you depend more on what you really want to learn and what you may know about the provider? Most of us probably have a provider we trust and are leery of unknown providers.

There are obviously many providers of webinars that we can choose from, so how can we make an intelligent choice? One way is to ask other club members for their recommendations. Another is to go to trusted sources. Another decision is whether to join the webinar live or watch the post webinar video. The advantage of the live version is our ability to ask questions. The down side that many of us experience is the failed streaming that is annoying as heck! Watching the post webinar video when it is provided solves that problem.

A great source of post webinar videos is PSA. The PSA webinar collection is a great way to explore a topic at your own pace and be assured that the information is first rate. However, you do have to be a member in order to access these recordings. A digital membership is just \$45/ year and gets you access to all the PSA recorded webinars, a real bargain for just that opportunity alone and there are plenty of other membership benefits.

Currently (June, 2020) the PSA webinar list includes:

- Understanding Black and White Photography - April 30, 2020
- Nature Photography in High Key Style - April 9, 2020
- Global Landscapes with Olympus Visionary Frank Smith - March 26, 2020
- Artistic Floral Photography - Various Styles and Techniques, February 13, 2020
- Photographing Architecture - Interiors of Religious Places - January 10, 2020
- Infrared Processing in Topaz Studio 2 - December 12, 2019
- iPhone-ography - Recorded August 28, 2019
- Travel & Nature Photography, Near and Far - Recorded June 17, 2019
- The A.I. Revolution with Topaz Labs on Feb 15, 2019
- Discover Luminar 3 with Libraries - January 18, 2019
- Details from Friday, November 9, 2018 - Color Management for Photographers



PSA intends to add six or more webinars per year, so there will be plenty more coming along to pique your interest.

Of course, there are other sources of worthwhile webinars including MPA and individuals like Tim Grey (see Margaret's President's column in this Newsletter issue for more on the topic). Some are free, some have nominal charges and some are pretty pricey. You have to decide what a webinar is worth to you personally as you invest your time and treasure. Whatever you decide to pursue, now is a pretty good time to invest.



Virtual Meeting Using Zoom

Judge: Josh Taylor

Topic: Open

(images taken in the last year)

On Tuesday May 12th at 7pm, members of the NIH CC participated in our first online ZOOM meeting. Some of the images that were critiqued by our judge Josh Taylor are represented in the following pages:

"Still Life on "Memento Mori""

By Coriolana Simon



This composition is a departure from my usual tulip still lifes in the antique Dutch style. Usually, they are big, fat, luscious bouquets of tulips with other spring flowers. However, this spare-looking one is still within the 17th century Dutch idiom. The title refers to the two elements in the picture: the tulips themselves, which will fade and wither, and the pocket watch, which is the usual reminder of the passage of time and the impermanence of material things. Here, I used my old Canon 5D Mark II with a Canon 100mm macro lens. Long exposure, low ISO. The light is primarily natural window light from the north, supplemented by one compact fluorescent in a soft box. Josh Taylor's comment was, "It's hard to be humble when you're perfect in every way."

"Orchid"

By Dale Lewis

This photo of an orchid was taken inside my home on March 14, 2020 at 2:12 p.m., with a black background. I bought the plant from Trader Joe's in Rockville before the shutdown. Camera setting: Canon EOS 6d Mark II, Macro lens 100 mm F/2.8 L IS USM, ISO 800, 1.3 sec at F/16, 100 mm, no flash. I used a tripod and a remote trigger. The color of the orchid was red and white. In lightroom, I changed it to black and white. Josh was very happy to see that someone applied black and white to the orchid. There was no fault in the photos and I love Josh's comments.





“Two Tulips”

By Dale Lewis

This photo with two tulips covered by waterdrops was grown in my box garden. It was very windy on April 8, 2020 at 6:37 p.m. I place a darkroom box (24“ x 24” x 24”) over the plant to prevent the wind from blowing the tulips. I also covered the box with cloth to prevent wind from entering the box. I built the box after attending a workshop by Coriolana Simon and Saul Pleeter on Still Life. I used a spray water bottle to add water droplets on the tulips. Camera setting: Canon EOS 6d Mark II, Lens: 70-200 mm F/2.8 L IS II USM, ISO 1000, 1 sec at F/20, 140 mm, no flash. I used a tripod and a remote trigger. I was very happy to hear all the wonderful comments about my photo including the sharpness of both flowers and water droplets by Joshua Taylor Jr who gave me a Josh’s Award.



“Longfellows”

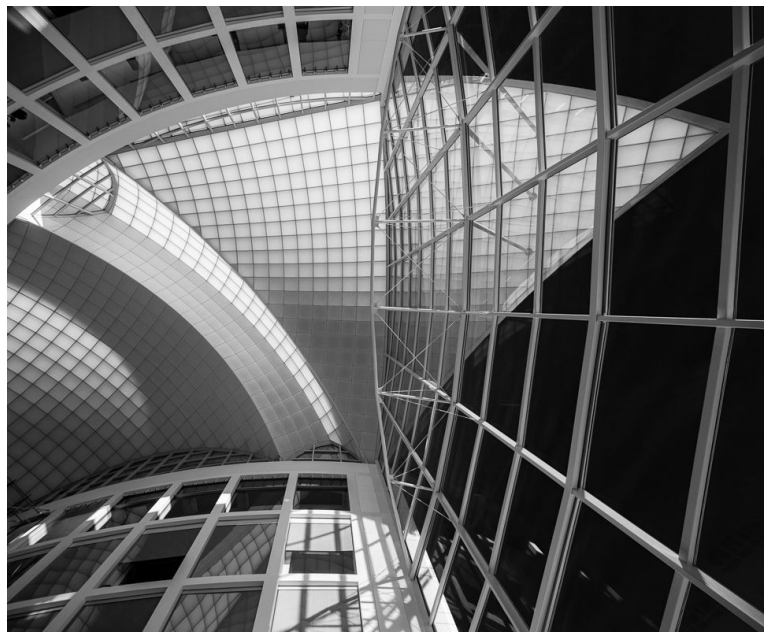
By David Terao

This images was taken as the sun was setting at the Redondo Beach pier in California creating nice, long shadows down the pier. This was before the stay-at-home order was in effect, so there were quite a few people walking through the scene. I waited on the upper level until the right moment occurred. I used a Panasonic GX9 camera with a 12-35mm lens set at 42mm (equivalent focal length). Exposure was 1/400 sec @ f/11 and ISO 200.

“U.S. Institute of Peace ”

By David Terao

This abstract architectural image was taken from inside the U.S. Institute of Peace looking up at the ceiling. The curved lines look like they were created with a fish-eye lens or photoshopped, but they are actually natural...a very unusual architecture. Shot with a Canon EOS R camera with a 17mm tilt-shift lens A 3-shot composite was created by shifting the lens from left to right to create the panorama. Exposures were 1/50 sec @ f/8.0 and ISO 100.



“Tulip Gone Wild ”

By Doug Wolters

I’ve been somewhat obsessively shooting botanicals at home – all of them focus stacked, using only window light. Processed in Helicon from a stack of 26, shot with a Canon 5D Mark III, Sigma 50mm f / 1.4 lens with a canon 500 D diopter, 0.5sec at f / 8.0, ISO 200. I agree with Josh – I too think it’s an exciting image.



“Hanging Tulip ”

By Doug Wolters

This is another of my focus stacked botanicals, converted to black & white in Lightroom and Silver Effects Pro. Processed from a stack of 18 in Helicon, shot with a Canon 5D Mark III, Sigma 50mm f / 1.4 lens with a Canon 500 D diopter, 1.5 sec at f / 8.0, ISO 200.



“Wave at Sunset”

By Gosia Klosek

The image was captured (in San Diego, February 2020) when the tide was coming in, the wind was picking up, and the sun was setting down. The shiny spray on the top of waves caught my attention. To make it more prominent, I darkened the sky and cropped the foreground. Joel found this image compelling.



“Alpha”
By Gosia Klosek

Last February, at the San Diego Animal Park's gorilla enclosure, this alpha male was sitting in the back, checking on his family and observing the visitors. I waited until his eyes met my camera. Josh commented that this eye-to-eye interaction made this image. Nikon 300 mm ISO400 f/6.3 1/125

“Tulip Bouquet”
By Jim Turner

This image is a composite, each object was shot individually and the scene was assembled in Photoshop. Shot with a Nikon D500 and a Nikon 60mm f/2.8 Macro lens at f/11, ISO 200.



“Rivets”
By Jim Turner

This image of rivets in the side of a locomotive engine was shot in the old shop area of the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore. Shot with a Nikon D500 and a 24-85mm Nikon lens at f/11, ISO 200, 4 sec.





“Seine River Lanterns”

By John Norvell

On a recent trip to France, we did the usual tourist activity -- an evening on a dinner boat. As we started out, I liked the colors of the sky and the lanterns. I had to lean far out to get separation of the lanterns and use a large ISO in order to stop the lantern's rocking motion.

“Monument Valley Tree and Butte”

By John Norvell

This image is from a photo trip to Monument Valley. Our guide drove us to an overlook for a beautiful sunrise and then we explored small nearby canyons. I saw the tree with sun on the branches and the dark mesa walls and quickly took this shot as the jeep went down the bumpy road.



“Ferris Wheel”

By Kay Norvell

This image of a ferris wheel in a park along the Rhone River was captured on our first evening in Avignon, France. I liked the night view from underneath.





“Jamacian Windows”

By Kay Norvell

The photo was taken at a long-abandoned sugar refinery in Jamacia. The woman sat down just long enough for me to grab this shot.



“Allen’s Hummingbird in Flight”

By Karen Goldman

Taken on a sunny day in Dec. 2019 at the Hummingbird Garden, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, Los Angeles. No flash or strobe. Minimum blurring was obtained at the wing’s maximum backward extension (between backward and forward motion). Nikon D7200, Nikkor 300mm Phase Fresnel prime lens with teleconverter to 420mm, f/8, 1/4000s, ISO 800.



**“Pink Beauty”
By Leonor Guillen**

Image taken in August 2019 in a countryside house in Colombia.SA Used a CoolPix NIKON camera (ISO 125; f4.5; 1/1000)

**“Pleasant Walk”
By Leonor Guillen**

Image taken in August 2019 in a country side house in Colombia, SA Used a Cool pix Nikon camera (ISO125 ; f/4;1/800)



**“Carcassonne Walled City”
By Margaret Sprott**

This was taken in June, 2019 on our trip to France. Nikon 5300; Tamron 18-400mm lens at 18mm; f/9; 1/125; ISO 400; used polarizer but no tripod
Processed in LightRoom - fixed black and white clipping, used Transform to straighten it, increased exposure, dehaze, vibrance, clarity, contrast and just a little saturation and brought out the shadows a little and then cropped a little. This was just one image I took of this fascinating walled city. The judge liked it pretty much but thought I could have taken out the people at the far end and used a polarizer to make the sky bluer. I had used the polarizer and I left the people in to give it some scale (and because it would have been too difficult to clone them out).



**“Aurora Swirl”
By Maureen Gardner**

This image was captured in a valley near the coastal city of Tromso, Norway, in January. We were lucky to witness an unusually powerful magnetic storm that caused the Northern Lights to "dance" brightly all over the sky for about an hour. I'm a novice especially with night photography and was using a rented camera and tripod. I chose to use a cable shutter release because it allowed me to quickly adjust the shutter speed, which was important because the aurora's intensity changed dramatically within seconds. The cable release also allowed me to look up more and enjoy this rare, ever-changing, extraordinary experience rather down to adjust the camera. (Our judge Josh said it had "good rhythm and dynamics" and that "it works" and is "not bad." He found the star "dots" distracting.) Nikon D7500 6.7sec f/3.5 ISO 2500 20mm

**“Dune Grass Swirls”
By Maureen Gardner**

The repetition of sharp arcing shadows of three dune grass plants in a row caught my eye at Bethany Beach one morning in September. The small plant in the upper right stops the eye from wandering off the image and sends it back into the frame. (Our judge Josh recommended that I burn down the upper right area to better show the texture of the sand. I am a rookie and don't yet have processing software with a discrete burning tool, so I darkened the whole image a bit, and I do think it's improved.) As to settings, I just framed it to my liking -- my Samsung Galaxy S8 smartphone reports these settings: f/1.7 1/3680 sec 4.25mm ISO 50



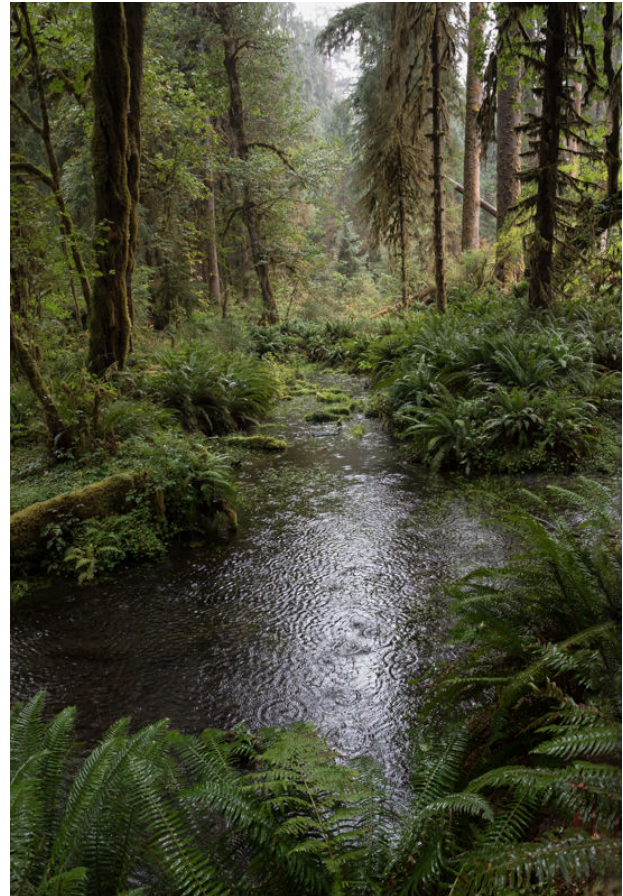
**“Oslo Stree”
By Peter Dunner**

This image was well received by Josh Taylor who liked the lines of color and the placement of the bench. It was taken in Oslo Norway.



“Solitude”
By Peter Duner

The original image was larger but as per his suggestions I've cropped it to focus more on the woman in the photo and remove some of the flower pots and the house. It was photographed in Cotignac, France.



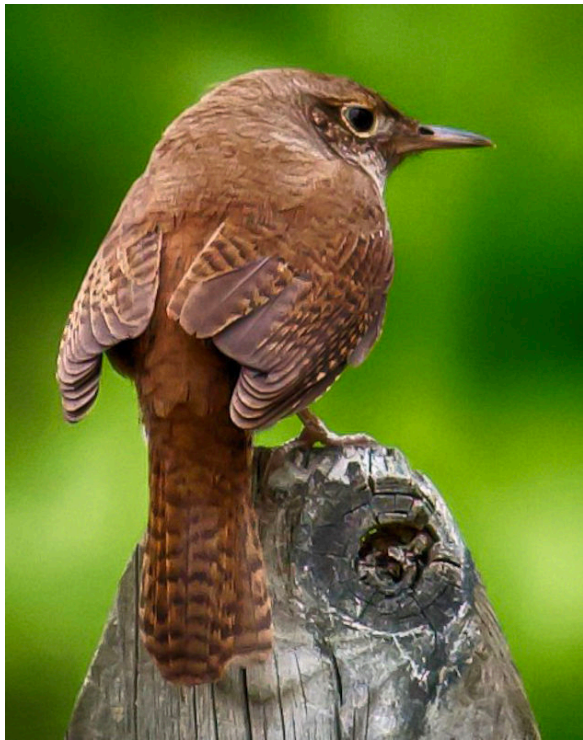
“Hoh Rain Forest”
By Quentin Fisher

The Hoh Rain Forest is part of the Olympia National Park in Washington, which features a huge variety of geographic environments. There are motels in Forks, about an hour from the Hoh visitors station, but we stayed closer at the Rain Forest Hostel, in which the host shares rooms in his home in exchange for a small choose-your-own-fee (suggested \$10), some household chores, and a half hour of non-pressured discussion about environmental degradation, capitalism, and universal health care. An experience that fit the milieu.



“Crashing Waves of Rialto Beach”
By Quentin Fisher

The Pacific shore of the Olympic Peninsula. Besides the terrific scenery, throughout the peninsula there were abundant opportunities for all types of bird watching, including endless fun watching the pelicans diving and fishing.



“Wren”
By Diane Poole

I took this image in my backyard a few weeks ago. I just love the way they sing and fly back and forth. I am fairly new at bird photography, and have so much fun trying to get a good clear image of them. I loved the way the knot in the tree and the little bird's eyes sort of ‘matched.’ Canon T3, f7.1, ISO 1/400.

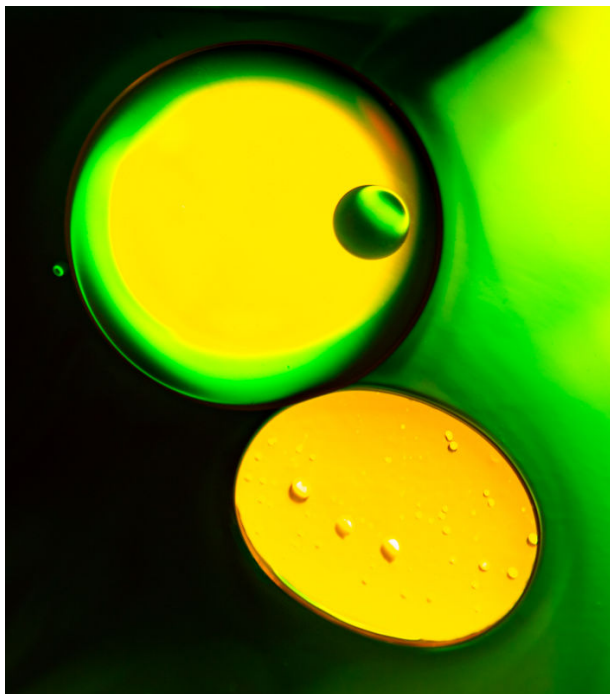
“Gorilla with my Eyes”
By Diane Poole

I took this image in early March (before the “Quarantine”) of a gorilla mask from Halloween at my friend's house. I took a picture of my eyes, and cloned it into my image. The Judge LOVED my image! I was so glad as I almost didn't even enter it. iPhone 11 and Photoshop



"Galaxy"
By Rhina Cabezas

During the last weeks I have been playing and learning about abstract and macro photography. One afternoon, after experimenting for a while with oil and water, I got this image which resembles, at least to me, to a Galaxy. Canon, ISO 100, f/90, 1/6 sec. *Judge comments: Nice abstract with a good combination of colors. Overall, it's a wow photo.*





"Calla Lily Portrait"

By Rhina Cabezas

I like Calla Lilies, especially their delicate color palette and funnel shape. For this photograph, I wanted to draw attention to the spike by smoothing out the rest of the lines. Canon, ISO 400, f/2.2, 1/60 sec. *Judge comments: Good shot of a Calla Lily. However, it's recommended to increase the margins on the sides to avoid overlapping the image with the mat when framing.*

"Up from the Crypt"

By Stan Collyer

A few of us attended Elody Crimini's workshop at the National Cathedral last December (offered through Washington Photo Safari). If she offers it again, I highly recommend it, as she takes you to places not normally accessible. Although this wasn't part of her itinerary, I went downstairs to the crypt, which also has plenty of interesting things to photograph. 3.2 sec, f/16, 62mm, ISO 1600.



"This Bud's for Me"

By Stan Collyer

Every springtime I do battle with one or two evil squirrels who eat the buds on our red maple tree. They're voracious, and I'm always afraid they'll strip the tree naked. They haven't so far--maybe because I spend so much time chasing them. This one was clearly taunting me. Our judge (Josh Taylor) said I should have entered it in John Kelly's annual squirrel photo contest in the Washington Post. Maybe next year. 1/2000 sec, f/5.6, 164mm, ISO 1600.





“Piran at Sunset, Slovenia”
By Suzanne T Dater

Piran is a town in southwestern Slovenia on the Gulf of Piran and on the Adriatic Sea. I was there in October of 2019 and took this shot from high above the town at 6:36pm. The town has much medieval architecture with narrow streets and compact houses. The territorial claims of Croatia and Slovenia in the Gulf of Piran remains an important matter of debate with Croatia-Slovenia border disputes that began after the dissolution of Yugoslavia. Nikon D810, 24-85mm. 2.8-4f, 38mm lens, 38m, .06 seconds at f/8, ISO 125.



“Lake Bled at Sunset, Slovenia”
By Suzanne T Dater

I took this shot on a photo trip on October 14, 2019 at Lake Bled at sunset (7:34pm) situated in the Julian Alps of northwestern Slovenia. The church on the Island was built in the 17th century and contains Gothic frescoes of 1470. A castle (not pictured here) stands on the far side the lake atop a high steep cliff. Transportation to the island is only by a small wooden rowboat. Nikon D810, Nikon 24-85mm 2.8-4f lens, 2 sec, f/8, 60 mm, ISO 3200

“Magic Machine Falls”

By Nicolas Raymond

Long exposure photo of Machine Falls from the Short Springs Natural Area near Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Selectively processed with a mix of blue, purple and yellow colors. Not that I didn't like the original color version blanketed with uniform green moss, this is more of an alternate version where I wanted to take the surreal beauty of this waterfall one step further.

Shutter Speeds (bracketed on tripod for HDR): 0.3,0.6, 1.3, 2.5 & 5 seconds Aperture: F/16 Focal Length: 31mm ISO: 100



“Mono Lake, California in November.”

By Robin Downing

The blues were too stunning to pass up. There is a slight dusting of snow. My friends fanned out in every direction, not to be found for an hour or so. I had the place to myself, which I really like.

Canon EOS 6D Mark II, ISO 100, 70mm, f/5.6, 1/400 sec.



“The Sierra Mountains in California near Mammoth Lake at Thanksgiving”

By Robin Downing

The weather turns on a dime. The sun, mist, and clouds constantly shifting around the stable stone anchors.

Canon EOS 6D Mark II, ISO 320, 240mm, f/5.6, 1/500 sec.



COMPETITION TOPICS AND DEFINITIONS 2020-21



6/9/2020 – End of Year Meeting - ZOOM (see page 3)

9/15/2020-OPEN- Photos taken within 6 months

10/13/2020-CRITIQUE-Topic to be announced later

For comments or questions contact
Margaret Sprott at margaret.sprott@gmail.com

11/10/2020-STREET PHOTOGRAPHY- The great spectacle of life on the streets or public places, people doing what they are supposed to do, being people. Henri Cartier Bresson talked about “the decisive moment”. Your images should tell a story be it events of daily life, activities, festivals, hanging out, begging, playing music in public. It is unacceptable to misrepresent the truth by manipulating or altering the subject matter or situation or by “staging” for the purpose of photography.

12/8/2020-Holiday Party Potluck

1/12/2021-HOLIDAYS- The photos entered should clearly be identifiable as a particular holiday (Christmas, Ramadan, Kwanzaa, Chanukah, Holi with bright colors thrown around, Lunar New Year, etc). There are many holidays and it may not be possible for everyone to be familiar with each and the various traditions but your photograph should tell a story. Entries should try to portray these. Personal events such as birthdays and weddings are not permitted, nor are meals in an ethnic restaurant.

2/9/2021-RED AND BLUE STATES- The elections are over, the President is sworn in and all is said and done. Red and blue are colors but states can be referred to as “red” or “blue” as well. They can also refer to states of emotion (think about feeling blue, a red cape waved at a bull). Entries should clearly reflect one of these interpretations of “red” or “blue.” If you choose to interpret the entry as a “US State” there should be something clearly identifiable about that State in your image (For example, a Texas rodeo, something identifiable in California that would make it “blue” assuming it remains that way). Entries may include one or both “colors.”

3/9/2021-SPORTS- Sports involve motion as well as emotion and entries should clearly reflect that. Sports can include professional or non-professional sports, youth sports, or personal sports (yoga, working out). Entries may include motion with motion blur or be static and could be solo or group sports. For this competition, video games, gambling, slot machines, etc. do not meet the definition.

4/13/2021-WATER IN ALL ITS FORMS- Images may depict ice, water or vapor, snow, rain such as waterfalls, icebergs, clouds, or rivers. Seascapes could be used so long as the water is the main focus of the image. Images in which the principal subject is water (anything from droplets to oceans), either stationary or in motion are valid. Although people in the image are acceptable, they should not be the dominant feature.

5/11/2021-TREES-Trees-Any image including a detail of a tree or a whole tree is acceptable so long as it is recognizable as a tree or part of a tree. The “hand of man” may be included so long as it is not the dominant element of the image. Products of trees such as paper and furniture do not qualify.

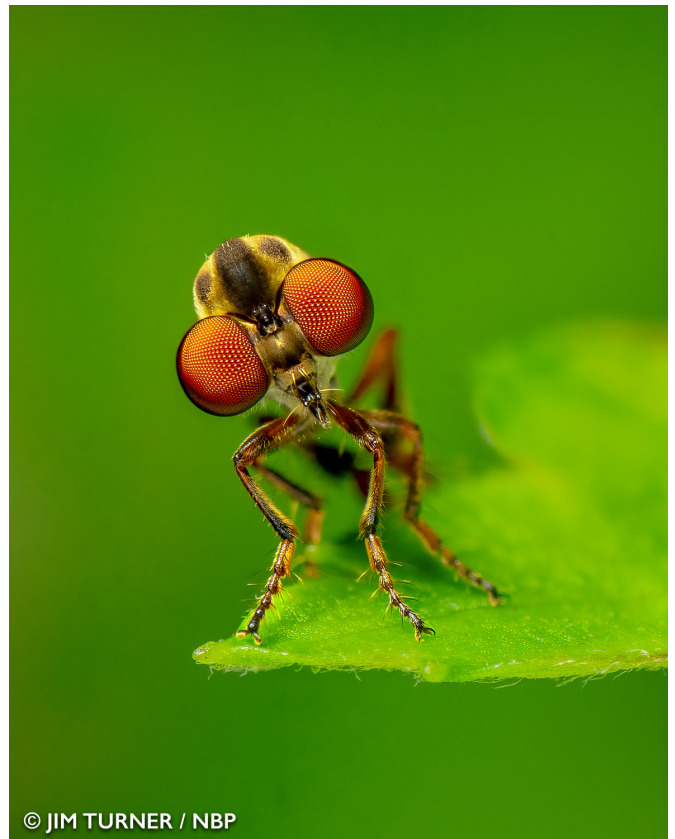
6/8/21-End of Year Party

Congratulations to Jim Turner 2019 Nature's Best® Backyards photo contest winners.

ROBBER FLY

<https://www.naturesbestphotography.com/>

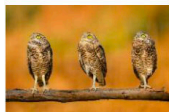
Click on Link to see gallery



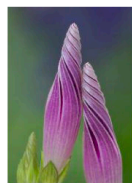
© JIM TURNER / NBP



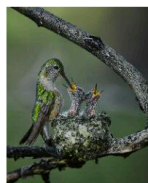
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FINALISTS FOR 2019



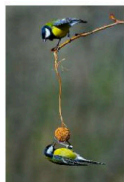
Andrew Lee:
Burrowing Owl



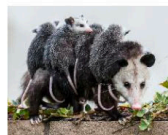
Donald Bolak:
Morning Glory Buds



Don Van Horn:
Broad-tailed Hummingbird



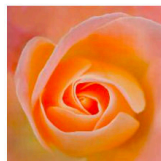
Javier Herranz Casellas:
Great Tit



Jeanne Shirley:
Opossum



Jim Turner:
Robber Fly



Kathleen Furey:
Rose



Leesa Beckman:
Tree Swallow



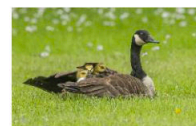
Livia Juniper, Youth:
Flowers and Boots



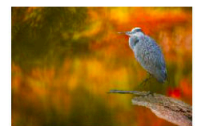
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FINALISTS FOR 2019



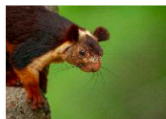
Melissa Rowell:
Red Squirrel



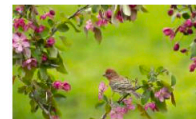
Melissa Rowell:
Canada Goose



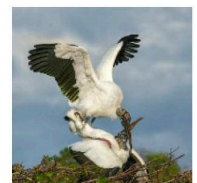
Nicolas Davy:
Grey Heron



Sameer Jain:
Malabar Giant Squirrel



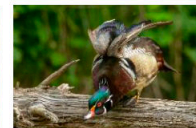
Sandra Rothenberg:
House Finch



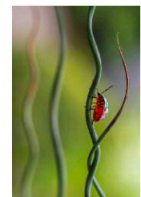
Sandy Richards-Brown:
Wood Stork



Saptarshi Gayen, Youth:
Dove



Thomas Dethlefsen:
Wood Duck



Wei Fu:
Jewel Bug



NIH Camera Club

PSA/PID: Third Round Images and Final Standings



Hi Folks,

Great news coming from the third and final round of the PID Interclub, plus a big boost in our year end standings as the PSA judges have delivered their results. First things first - in case you missed it from the last newsletter - our club members have voted the following & attached photos to advance in this round:

"Lost in Thought" by Stan Collyer
"Allens Hummingbird Resting" by Karen Goldman
"Saguaro National Park Monsoon" by William James
"Sainte-Chapelle" by John Norvell
"Bee with Dew" by Cathrine Sasek
"Winter Break" by Michael Tran

Now that the PSA judges have deliberated, I am happy to report how we fared in this final round. Incredibly well at that, highlights include:

- NIHCC scored first place in Round 3, our best score ever to my knowledge since we started participating again in the PID Interclub over the last three years.
- Three awards were granted to NIHCC photographers in Round 3: Cathrine Sasek for "Bee with Dew" (Award of Honor with a score of 13 out of 15), Stan Collyer for "Lost in Thought" (Award of Honor with a score of 12 out of 15), and William James for "Saguaro National Park Monsoon" (Honorable Mention with a score of 12 out of 15).
- These award winning photos are now published as part of a slideshow on the PSA website. You will need to scroll over to Group D, but well worth browsing through award winning photos across all groups for inspiration. The PSA slideshow link is <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?2019-20-pid-interclub-round-three>
- In the year end tally, NIHCC moved up to 7th place out of 24 camera clubs under Group D where we have been competing. A huge gain when we were lagging behind at 17th place in Round 1 and 16th place in Round 2.

Thank you all for participating this year. Great to see we ended on a high note, and deservedly so for the very talented photographers in our club. Hoping it will encourage you to keep participating next year, otherwise I still plan to help administer the PID Interclub.

Cheers and Stay Safe,

Nicolas Raymond



Better Query Saul Extension Tubes

By Saul Pleeter



My isolation has made photographing flowers my new focus. Last month's column discussed accessories for flower photography that are useful and very affordable. This month I want to talk about another useful and fairly inexpensive accessory — extension tubes. Extension tubes decrease the minimum focusing distance for your lens and allow you to fill the frame with your subject, rather than shooting and cropping, which reduces the number of pixels in your shot.

Extension tubes do not have optics — basically they are devices that are mounted between your camera body and your lens. They literally move the lens closer to the subject! Extension tubes can be purchased with and without electrical contacts that enable autofocus and exposure. Extension tubes that enable auto focusing tend to be expensive while extension tubes absent these contacts are relatively inexpensive (I just purchased a used set of extension tubes for \$50.).



The above photo shows a digital SLR with an extension tube. Note that the extension tube is mounted between the camera frame and the lens.

Extension tubes usually come 3 to a set - the smallest one is about 12mm, middle one 20mm and the largest one is 35mm. I said about because the sizes vary somewhat depending on the manufacturer. There are larger ones - B&H lists a 50mm extension tube that can also be purchased.



The tubes are stackable - if you mount the 35mm to the 12mm your focusing distance has decreased to what would have materialized if you had a 50mm tube. As the photo above shows all of the extension tubes can be combined and the total effect will be the sum of the individual tubes.

As I wrote above, extension tubes allow you to get closer, as the next three photos show. The first photo was taken with a 90mm macro lens and no extension tubes. The minimum focusing distance was about 14 inches.

I then used a 20mm extension tube. Minimum focusing distance decreased to about 8 inches.



Finally, the photo below was taken with a 35mm extension tube. The Minimum focusing distance decreased to about 6 inches.



Using extension tubes will reduce the available light to the sensor. The cost is about 1 to 1.5 stops for each tube.. This means either opening up the lens (larger aperture) or raising the ISO.



A larger aperture lowers the depth of field while a higher ISO increases noise - so there is a 'cost' or trade-off to using extension tubes.

Extension tubes can be used with any kind of lens - macro, zoom, telephoto or even wide angle. Two issues should be noted - you will not be able to focus at infinity with the extension tube mounted. Also, extension tubes are not useable for wide angle lenses below 35mm.

If extension tubes are inexpensive and they work, why would anyone purchase a macro lens? Ideally we would like to compare the price of a macro with a non-macro lens with the same maximum aperture and features. I was not able to find that comparison - but I can come close - I think. Consider the following: Canon sold a 100mm f2.0 non-macro lens that you can buy used today for about \$400. Canon also makes a 100mm f2.8 macro lens that sells for about \$900. The macro lens has a minimum focus distance of 11.8 inches, whereas the minimum focus distance of the non-macro lens is 35.4 inches. The macro lens gets you 20 inches closer!

How would these lenses compare with a 35mm extension tube? I would estimate that this lens with a 35mm extension tube would reduce the minimum focus distance to 13 inches.

Although there are no optics with extension tubes, and, therefore, there should be no difference in image quality, manufacturers design macro lenses to be used at close distances. They are likely to be sharper at these close distances than a non-macro lens used at the minimum focus distance.

Cancelled

The graphic features a dark blue header with the text "2020 Photographic Society of America PHOTO FESTIVAL" in white. To the right is the PSA logo, which includes the text "PSA Photographic Society of America WORLDWIDE". Below the header is a scenic photograph of a mountain range at sunset. On the left side of the image is a vertical banner for the "82nd Annual PSA Photo Festival" in Colorado Springs, dated from September 30 to October 3, 2020, with "Photo Tours" from Sept. 29th thru Oct. 3rd. A large orange text box is overlaid on the bottom right of the image, containing a cancellation notice dated April 23, 2020, and a statement of support for the organization's future events.

2020 Photographic Society of America
PHOTO FESTIVAL

PSA
Photographic
Society of
America
WORLDWIDE

82nd Annual
PSA Photo Festival
September 30
to October 3, 2020

Colorado
Springs

Photo Tours
Sept. 29th thru Oct. 3rd

April 23, 2020 - It is with thoughtful reluctance and much sadness that the PSA Executive Committee has made a decision to cancel the planned Photo Festival in Colorado Springs in September. This was a very difficult decision to make, knowing that the 2020 Photo Festival is highly valued and anticipated; but paramount to the decision was putting the health, safety, and peace of mind of our membership first. In the absence of a vaccine, our gathering, especially with many members in the high-risk category, would simply be accepting too much risk for all of us. Many other organizations, including the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP), have cancelled all their 2020 planned gatherings and events until more is learned about the virus and the pandemic.

Several of you have already registered, we have not billed your credit cards and had planned not to do so before July 1st. The PSA registrations will be cancelled without any fees being incurred and we will take care of that for you. You will need to cancel your hotel reservation and that can be done through the confirmation email you received from the hotel at no charge. Hopefully, a vaccine and mitigation will enable a safe, healthy environment for our Festival in Rapid City, South Dakota in 2021. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

PSA continues to be a leader in the photographic world and this in no means diminishes the service we provide for our members.



NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Our bylaws require the Nominating Committee to publish the slate of officer nominations in the May and June newsletters. The Secretary & Treasurer are elected in even-numbered years, and the President & Vice President in odd years. Since 2020 is divisible by two with no remainder, that makes it even--never mind that this is probably the oddest year anyone can remember.

The nominees are:

- Secretary: Gosia Klosek**
- Treasurer: Stan Collyer**

If these names seem familiar to you, maybe it's because they're already serving in those positions. Both Gosia and Stan have graciously agreed to run for another term, although their feelings won't be hurt if somebody else wants the job. Additional names may be submitted by any Club member before, or during, the June meeting. Elections will be conducted in June.

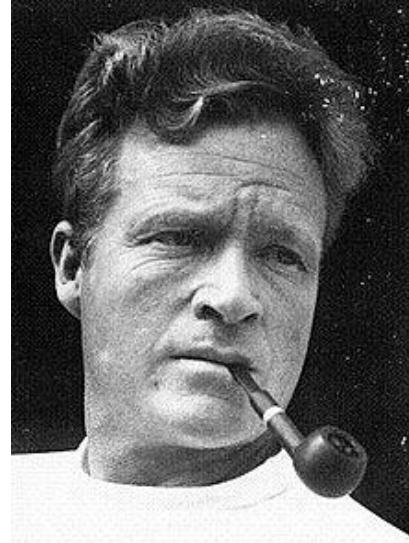
Respectfully submitted,

**Stan Collyer, Chair
Nominating Committee**

Famous Photographers By Stephen Levitas #51 June 2020 Cameraderie Brett Weston (1911-1993)



Brett Weston and his father, Edward Weston



I started this series on great photographers in October 2012 with Edward Weston, the photographer with whom I was then, and now, most impressed. Now, for the beginning of the second set of 50 articles—an anniversary of sorts—I am turning to his son, Brett Weston.

Please have a look at his Wikipedia article here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brett_Weston

From the Wikipedia article:

[Brett] Weston began taking photographs in 1925, He began showing his photographs with Edward Weston in 1927, was featured at the international exhibition at Film und Foto in Germany at age 17, and mounted his first one-man museum retrospective at age 21 at the De Young Museum in San Francisco in January, 1932.

Brett Weston was credited by photography historian Beaumont Newhall as the first photographer to make negative space the subject of a photograph.

I am impressed by the younger Weston's extraordinary versatility in his photography, possibly more so than his father—a difficult decision for me. In the sample images below, I am trying to show that versatility.



I am charmed by these two extremely formal compositions.

Nude in Pool [1979-1982]



Dunes

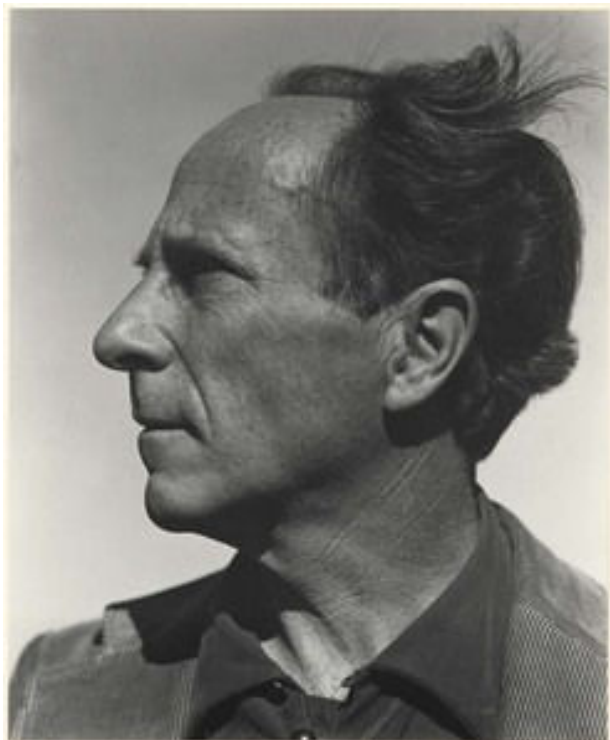


Weston apparently saw similarities between nudes and dunes, and exhibited them together.

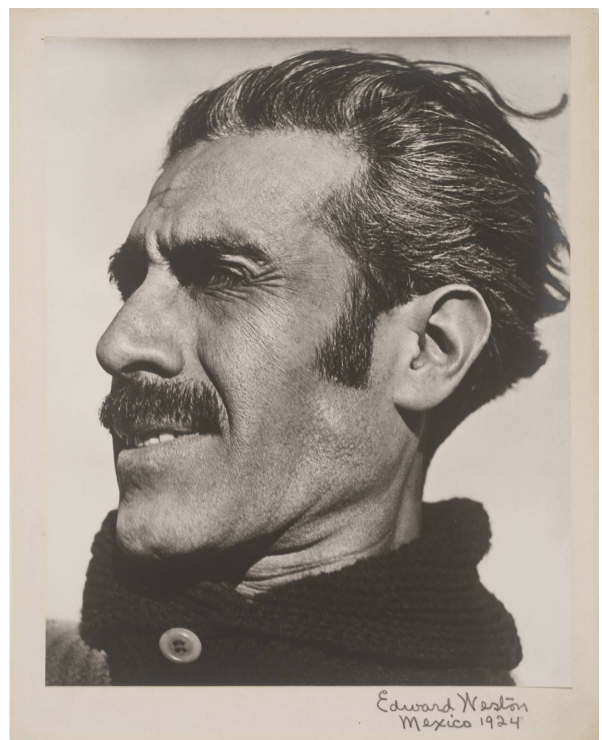


This is Weston's famous broken glass image, said by one critic to be the first photograph ever to capture "negative space."

Edward Weston by Brett Weston 1924



Manuel Hernández Galván by Edward Weston,



Do you have any doubt that Brett Weston shot this image of his father in the style of his father's famous shot of General Galván?

The NIH
CAMERA
CLUB



Register on the NIHCC Website

Our Webmaster Jim Turner is working very hard to make our website awesome. If you haven't registered yet, please do! If you have any questions about the way things work, please feel free to e-mail Jim and he will be able to help you with the easy process.

<http://www.nihcameraclub.com>



Silver Spring Camera Club

You might be interested to see what our sister club, the Silver Spring Camera Club, is up to! Here is a link to their site. They also publish a newsletter, Cable Release, and it is available here.

<http://www.sscphotography.org/>



A Proud Member of the



**Maryland
Photography Alliance**

<https://www.mdphotoalliance.org/>

Club Officers and Committees

President: Margaret Sprott
Vice President: Cathrine Sasek
Secretary: Gosia Klosek
Treasurer: Stan Collyer
Past President: Linda Eisenstadt
Program Chair: Peter Dunner
Education, Workshop: Peter Dunner
Field Trip Chair: **VACANT**
Digital Czar(s): Quentin A. Fisher, Dale Lewis
Social Chair: Suzanne Dater
Membership Coordinator: Leonor Guillen
Nominating Committee Chair: Stan Collyer
Communications Director: Melissa Park
PSA Rep: Dick Sprott
Nature Visions Rep: Ann McDermott
Travelogue Chair: Cathrine Sasek
Nature Visions Alternate: John Norvell
Editor: Diane J Poole
Webmaster: Jim Turner
Web Address: <http://www.nihcameraclub.com>

**This newsletter is published monthly by the
National Institutes of Health Camera Club,
Bethesda, MD.**



Complete membership form (find on the web site and attached to each newsletter or pick up at a meeting). Please note that you must be a member to compete in the monthly competitions.

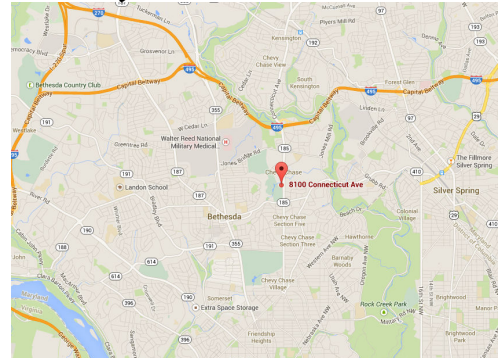
Mail membership form and check to the Treasurer:
Stan Collyer 8817 Belmont Road Potomac, MD 20854 or submit at a regular meeting.
You do not have to work at NIH to join the club.

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Meeting Location

**Five Star Premier Residences
of Chevy Chase
8100 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815**



**Competition Night: Second Tuesday
of the month**

About Our Club

The purpose of the NIH Camera Club is to encourage its members to increase their knowledge, skills, and enjoyment of photography by holding meetings, classes, lectures, and demonstrations of the various phases of photography, and conducting workshops, photographic competitions, and other photography related activities. **Membership is open to all, not just NIH employees.**

Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of each month from September through June at 7:00 P.M. at the Five Star Premier Residences on Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase, MD. Special events will be held at The FAES Social and Academic Center 9101 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM

National Institutes of Health Camera Club (NIHCC)

Membership in the NIH Camera Club historically consisted of current and former NIH employees and their families. The club is now open to anyone who has an interest in photography. The Treasurer collects Camera Club dues by September.

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

HOME or WORK ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: HOME _____ CELL _____ WORK _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

FEES (please check the appropriate line(s):

\$__ Single membership: \$40

\$__ Family membership (Family members must live in same household):

2 family members: \$64 3 family members: \$88

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID \$ _____ Cash ___ Check # _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NIH Camera Club

SEND TO: Stan Collyer, Treasurer
8817 Belmart Road
Potomac, MD 20854
H-301-299-6955
Email: sccollier@aol.com

Please indicate how you would like to be involved in NIH Camera Club activities:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ----Program Committee | ----Membership Committee |
| ----Social Committee | ----Publicity Committee |
| ----Field Trip Committee | ----Newsletter Committee |
| ----Workshop and Education Committee | ----Website Committee |

WAIVER

I hold the NIH Camera Club (NIHCC) and each member of NIHCC, individually and collectively, blameless for any injury that may occur to me or my guests, or my property while participating in any NIHCC activity or event.

Print Name

Signature

Date

June 2019