Cameraderie

The Newsletter of the NIH Camera Club, Bethesda, MD Vol. 62 (7); April 2023

"Early Spring" By Doug Wolters



"Hosta X Ray" By Doug Wolters



The NIH CAMERA CLUB CLUB	PHENE RACIO
TABLE OF CONTENTS/INFO.	2
PSA REP RAP	3
MPA UPDATE.	4
COMPETITION TOPICS 2022-23	5
April Judge	5
APRIL EDUCATIONAL SPEAKER	6
WINNING IMAGES.	7-10
PSA/PID UPDATE	11-13
FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPHER SERIES	14-17
TULIPS THROUGH MY EYES: DALE LEWIS	18-19
NIH CC ON INSTAGRAM!	20
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS NEW OFFICERS	21
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS LORRAINE LASKO SERVICE AWARD	22
WEBSITE INFORMATION	23
PSA ANNUAL MEETING.	24
GENERAL CLUB INFORMATION	25
BOARD MEMBERS AND MEETING INFORMATION	
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM	

Monthly meeting dates and topics from website can be found here: https://www.nihcameraclub.com/events/

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



PSA Rep Rap April 2023 By Dick Sprott





Here's hoping you won't be too offended by this month's very short, combined columns. As we write this Margaret and I are in Sulphur, Louisiana on a trip for birding the coasts of Louisiana and Texas. We are really not able to give lots of thought to our usual columns while driving 300 to 500 miles per day or spending many hours in wildlife management areas. We hope you are all having as much fun as we are. Certainly, if you are joining Dale on his meetups you should be having fun and productive photo ops. We have not completely abandoned photography for this trip even though the primary purpose is birding. We left our "big boy" and "big girl" cameras behind in order to focus exclusively on iPhone photography. Margaret will use the trip as a way to learn how to use her new iPhone camera. In fact, she has already taken one picture! The image is of a stately Live Oak. Even though called a "live oak," it stays very cooperatively still for photographs, a copy is below.

At this point in the trip we have identified 93 species of birds and missed a bunch as well. We will be back around the end of the month and are looking forward to the May meeting. Enjoy spring!





Click here to register: https://www.mdphotoalliance.org/artistspotlight







Maryland Masters

Janet Little Jeffers

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - 7:00 PM ET

"Ways of Seeing"



An evening of learning how to truly see and how to visualize your subject in creative ways. A discussion of the artistic vision and how to open your eyes to the extraordinary in the ordinary. "Maryland Masters" is the newest program from the Maryland Photography Alliance (MPA) which recognizes the talent and success of artists throughout Maryland communities.



COMPETITION TOPICS AND DEFINITIONS 2023

For comments or questions contact Margaret Sprott at <u>margaret.sprott@gmail.com</u>



Competiton Rules for our Club have been updated and can be found here: <u>https://www.nihcameraclub.com/competition-rules/</u>

<u>May -Night Photography -</u> Night photography comprises photos taken between sunset and sunrise where the light of the sun is not visible. Night photos may be of the night sky, moon or other astrological phenomena, or other outdoor scenes that may not include the night sky in the photo but where it is obvious to the viewer that it is nighttime. Photos taken inside, but clearly showing evidence of nighttime (i.e. night sky seen through window) are also permissible. Some artificial light is acceptable but should not be a significant part of the overall composition. Images of anything obviously taken after dark.

June - End of Year Party-TBA





Zolt Levay has been pursuing photography and astronomy most of his life. As far back as high school he was processing photographs in a home darkroom and observing the sky and taking photographs through a home-built telescope. He earned university degrees in astronomy and worked with several NASA space science missions including the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes. For most of his career, until his retirement he was responsible for translating science data into images that illustrated the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope. In the meantime he has pursued a range of photographic and astronomical interests. Current, ongoing personal projects include seeking out dark, clear skies to explore and photograph the relationship between landscapes, the night sky, and the cosmos.

Educational Night: May 16, 2023 -7pm



Bio: I'm a fine art and commercial architecture photographer based in Chicago striving to bring a detailed, thoughtful perspective to my work, whether for clients or through the workshops I lead. Having grown up surrounded by nature yet fascinated by the big city I've called home for more than two decades; I bring the meditative calm of my upbringing to a terrain that's always transforming. Drawing from my education in the micro sciences (molecular biology, microbiology, virology) my focus is more frequently on bold architectural details rather than sweeping cityscapes, creating images that celebrate those unexpectedly iconic elements hiding in plain sight.

Class Description: Join Angie for a discussion focusing on creative approaches to architectural subjects. Emphasis will be on architectural details and creating abstracts of the built environment. She'll share how to uncover creative viewpoints and how to best utilize compositional tools to create more compelling images







Advanced Color		
Doug Wolters	Early Spring	1
Dale Lewis	Multicolor Rose	2
Doug Wolters	Leafscape No 29	3
Gosia Klosek	Burning Daisy	H
Michael Tran	Cicada New Life	Н

Advanced Monochrome			
Doug Wolters	Hosta X Ray	1	
David Terao	Chrysanthemum	2	
Doug Wolters	Mushroom Maze	3	
Coriolana Simon	Mums	Η	



"Early Spring" By Doug Wolters

Last year I took a course with Kathleen Clemons. I probably would not have shot this image before taking that class. Shot with a Canon 5D Mark III on a tripod, 105mm Sigma f/ 2.8 macro lens, 1/5 sec. at f/ 5.0, ISO 200.



"Multicolor Rose" By Dale Lewis

The multicolor rose was taken on 1/18/23 at home. I purchased a bouquet of roses (24 stems) from Wegman Supermarket. Instead of photographing the rose directly, I peeled back each pedal to give the rose a different view showing the colors and curves. It was taken in front of a black background (5 ft x 7 ft) with two ring lights at 45

degrees from the back of the rose and a small ring light on the camera. The rose was held in position by a Wimberly Plamp II (clamp). The photo was taken on a tripod and a focusing rail with a Canon EOS 90D and lens 100 mm. The mirror lockup and focus bracketing were enabled to shoot 20 images with a different focus. Camera settings: 1/13 sec at f/16, ISO 800, 100 mm (EF 100mm f/2.8 L Macro IS USM). The 20 images were imported into Lightroom, and exported to Helicon Focus, where they were stacked, and the stacked image was imported back into

Lightroom. Adjustments to the image were made in Lightroom. The final image was processed in Topaz DeNoise AI and Topaz Sharpen AI.



"Leafscape No. 29" By Doug Wolters

An enduring photographic interest of mine has been shooting "mature" hosta leaves; I still have many in the attic waiting to be shot. This one is from last December. Shot with a Canon 5D Mark III, 105mm Sigma f/ 2.8 macro lens, 0.4 sec. at f/ 8.0, ISO 200; 57 images shot on a rail, processed in Helicon.



"Burning Daisy" By Gosia Klosek

The flower is back lit to create the soft flowing image of the petals. I increased the color intensity of the flower base to focus on its shape, texture, and color. The judge made a comment about the color intensity, that it is a personal choice, and liked the composition. Nikon ISO 250 105 mm f9.0 0.4 sec



"Cicada New Life" By Michaell Tran

This is 17 year periodical Cicada found in Maryland. It was so much fun while taken pictures and watched them transformed from a bug to a fly.



"Hosta X Ray" By Doug Wolters

This is a reworking of an old image. This hosta leaf had wonderful colors, but too much of it was out of focus. Just for fun, I decided convert it to black & white, and take it to the original Topaz Studio Glow to see what would happen. And this was the result! I was very pleased. Shot with a Canon Rebel T2I, 1/6 sec at f/ 18 on a tripod, with a Canon 300mm f/4L lens, ISO 400.



"Chrysanthemum " By David Terao

This was taken at the conservatory at Brookside Gardens with my iPhone. I didn't have my camera with me and wasn't expecting anything special there. It turns out, they had a great chrysanthemum exhibit - even better than that at Longwood Gardens. I used Photoshop to remove the distracting background and made it black. Then, converted the image to B&W.



"Mushroom Maze" By Doug Wolters

This is a shot of a mushroom very close to my front door. Processed with the help of Silver Effects Pro. Shot with a Canon 5D Mark III, Tamron 180mm lens, 0.3 sec at f/ 16, ISO 200 on a tripod.



"Mums" By Coriolana Simon

As a rule, flowers want to be photographed in color. However, these mums were just a solid yellow that was not particularly interesting. I took advantage of the strong light and converted the image to black & white, then increased the drama in Silver Effects Pro, trying for all blacks and whites with no intermediate greys. Canon 5D Mark II, with Canon 100mm Macro Lens, on Really Right Stuff tripod[DW1].



PSA/PID: Round 2 By Quentin Fisher

The third and final round of this year's PSA Projected Image Division's interclub competitions has been completed. Last month club members voted for the six photos in each category to represent us in competition against 24 other clubs. A Big thank you goes to all the participants who took the time and energy to select, prepare and submit what were truly excellent and varied photos. Many of the votes were quite close.

There were 10 entries in each category; the six highest vote-getters were as follows:

In Monochrome, they were:

Stan Collyer: Shanghai Staircase Saul Pleeter: Marjolene2 Diane Poole: He's the One David Terao: One White Flint North Michael Tran: White Peacock Doug Wolters: Not a Bank

In color, they were:

Stan Collyer: Havana Mural Saul Pleeter: Soccer Practice Coriolana Simon: Japanese Wonder Shell David Terao: Bowing Ballerina Michael Tran: Blue Hour at the Lake Jim Turner: Somewhere in Wyoming

We can expect the results to be reported by the PSA in a few weeks.

























Famous Photographers By Stephen Levitas #82 April 2023 Cameraderie

Paolo Pellegrin (1964-)





Paolo Pellegrin is best known as a humanitarian photographer, going wherever there is war, suffering, and mistreatment of people. He has won award after award for his projects in the Balkans, the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere. His outstanding empathy for suffering or mistreated people is evident in all his work. See the Wikipedia article for details of his projects and awards: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paolo_Pellegrin

The following article, with lots of great images in it, is about Pellegrin's recent exhibition, *Un'antologia* (*An Anthology*), now on display at MAXXI, Italy's first national museum of contemporary art and architecture, located in Pellegrin's home city of Rome.

https://www.magnumphotos.com/arts-culture/society-arts-culture/paolo-pellegrin-un-antologia/

This recent New Yorker article, discussing Pellegrin's aesthetic process and showing several of his images, prompted me to write this article on him. Please read it—it is about the sublime. https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/05/23/paolo-pellegrins-photographic-quest-for-the-sublime

Here is Pellegrin's Magnum Photos webpage, full of his images:. https://www.magnumphotos.com/photographer/paolo-pellegrin/

Pellegrin has worked more recently in commercial photography. See the image and discussion below about one of his commercial assignments. This hints at his personal history. According to the New Yorker article, he was invited *three times* to join Magnum Photos. He refused twice, preferring, I presume, to follow his own vision—he even walked out of an airport instead of continuing to catch a flight to visit Magnum for the second invitation. But he accepted the Magnum membership on the third invitation. Magnum membership is about the highest status membership there is in professional photography. But Pellegrin's evolution to the commercial gig for Magnum perhaps represents a concession to aging and poor health—of all things for a photographer, he has had progressive glaucoma (arrested for now, but always a sword of Damocles over his head—or eyes). So the stalwart younger independent photographer, going everywhere, risking danger, getting hospitalized from the rigors of assignments, now becomes a designer of a name brand travel bag and manages a (very good) commercial photo shoot of the bag

This is perhaps not a cop-out, because many of the finest photographers (Steichen (#9, Sept. 2013), Penn (#30-34, June-Nov. 2018), Avedon (#3, Feb. 2013), Hiro (#67, Dec. 2021), to name a few) have had their greatest successes in commercial photography. Many others operated portrait studios for their livings (e.g., Weston (#1, Oct. 2012)).

Here is a very small sample of Pellegrin's images, with my comments.





As I have mentioned before, there is history to out-of-focus images powerfully conveying emotions. Robert Frank's (#23, Oct. 2017) book, *The Americans*, had several out-of-focus images. Robert Capa's (#29, May 2018) most famous WWII Normandy Landing image was even blurrier than this image. See also Pellegrin's Wildebeest image below.

Civilians sift through the rubble looking for survivors following an Israeli air raid. Beirut, Lebanon, 2006.



This looks like a Cartier-Bresson "Decisive Moment." Guantánamo Bay U.S. naval base and detention center. Cuba, 2012.



This is a clever montage, where limited access and privacy restrictions have been overcome to produce an effective finished product.

Pellegrin shot an advertising set of images for the British high-fashion company Belstaff. The advertised item is a branded Magnum/Belstaff camera (and other uses) bag. Here is the descriptive blurb from the Magnum Photos website:

Belstaff teams up with Paolo Pellegrin on a stylish new addition to their brands accessories range. As well as designing a camera/weekender bag, Pellegrin also shot and directed the campaign in the rugged landscape of the Tenerife volcano range.



See this link from the Magnum Photos website for an article describing Pellegrin "in the field": <u>https://</u> www.magnumphotos.com/theory-andpractice/paolo-pellegrin-in-the-field/ Here is another link from the Magnum Photos website to a large set of the "field" images. If you look at this link, note the large number of less successful images: <u>Belstaff | Magnum Creative</u> (magnumphotos.com) This is an interesting study of a professional photographer doing a

commercial assignment.

A blue wildebeest, caught in motion during a sunset drive.



This is one of Pellegrin's iconic images, reflecting his study of philosophy—specifically the concept of "forms," in which this image expresses not a particular wildebeest, but the "form" of a wildebeest, or "wildebeestness." No joke here: "forms" originated with Plato.

NIH Camera Club

April 2023

Tulips Through My Lens: by Dale Lewis

Tulips Through My Lens by Dale Lewis

I visited the Burnside Farm in Nokesville, VA on April14, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. and was amazed by the size of the field and the wide variety of colorful tulips. I walked through the field admiring the beautiful rows of tulips. I felt like a child in a candy store. The big question was: "Which tulips do I photograph first? Should I shoot macro or wide angle?" It was difficult for me to stop, put down my bags, and start photographing the wide variety of tulips. This write-up is a summary of that special day I spent capturing a photographer's paradise through my lens.

What gear is in my bag?

Before I left home, I formulated a plan for photographing tulips. I packed the following gear: a Drone (Mavic Air 2), Canon EOS 6D mark II (full frame) and a Canon EOS 90D (crop sensor); Lens: Macro 100 mm f/2.8L IS USM, wide angle 16-35 mm f/4L IS USM and 24-70 f/2.8L IS US, and Kenko extension tube set 12, 20 and 36 mm; Lensbaby composer Pro II sweet 50, and Lensbaby soft focus; Bolt VM-160 LED Macro ring light and MK-MT24 Macro flash set (4 lights); extra batteries for the camera and flashes; Vello wireless shutterboss trigger, diffuser, knee pads and spray bottle with water.

Aerial view of the tulips

Since it was early, around 8:45 a.m., and the crowd was small, I flew my Mavic Air 2 Drone to get wide angle photos of the tulips from above and to capture the extent of the tulip field. I did not know whether the farm allowed drones to fly over the field. I wanted to get photos from above before someone told me it was not allowed. I figured, "better to beg for forgiveness than to ask for permission." The field was just spectacular and beautiful from above. Here are two aerial photos of the tulips.





Wide view of the tulips from ground level

As I looked around, I thought of taking wide-angle photos of the tulips from the ground to get a different view from that of the drone. It is exceptionally beautiful to look at the colorful tulips in the field stretching as far as my eyes can see. I have included a few photos to illustrate that view.



Isolate individual tulips

One good technique in flower photography is to capture individual flowers that stand out from the crowd. I used either a 16-35 mm or 24-70 mm lens and focused on individual tulips from a short distance. I was able to get a few lovely shots. One tulip (yellow) was growing outside of the row of tulips and was easily noticeable. A few tulips grew higher than the other tulips, so they were easily visible. Another yellow/red flower stood out amongst the others because half of its petals were pointing downward while the center of the tulip was open for a good capture.



Macro view of tulip

It was difficult to do macro in the field because it was windy, and the tulips were constantly moving. Maybe photographing the tulips early in the morning or late in the afternoon would have been better or waiting until the wind died down. Since I was going to get five free stems of tulips to take home, I did not do macro in the field. I preferred to wait until I got home to do macro in a controlled environment with studio lighting and a black background. I used a Canon EOS 90D with a 100 mm macro lens on a tripod with a focusing rail to photograph tulips. This camera has a feature called "focus bracketing" – allowing me to shoot twenty images at different focus ranges and stack them into a single image in Helicon Focus. The mirror lock-up of the camera was enabled and a remote trigger release was used to activate the camera. Below is a basket of tulips which I took home. I even bought the bulbs and planted them in our garden when I got home.



Summary

I had an enjoyable time photographing tulips during my field trip to Burnside Farm. I wish that some NIHCC members were there. There are many more techniques of photographing tulips. The images featured in this article just barely scratch the surface. I didn't even use my water bottle of water, nor my Lensbaby or extension tubes. Overall, it was a great trip, and the weather was beautiful. I love the photos I took in the limited time I was there.



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NIH Camera Club

Featuring photos from the NIH Camera Club in Bethesda, Maryland. Membership open to local photographers of all skill levels, not just NIH employees.

www.nihcameraclub.com



NIH Camera Club is on Instagram!

We have been a little behind lately and would really like to pick up on posting on this social media platform. Contact me if you would like to have your image added! I can "tag" you in the post if you are on Insta

E mail Diane Poole Dianejpoole@gmail.com





NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS 2023

The annual election of Club officers will be held at the June 13th Club meeting. According to the By-Laws, the Nominating Committee will publish the slate of officer nominations twice before the June elections. This year we will be electing the President and Vice President, because their terms end in odd-numbered years. The Secretary and Treasurer are elected in even-numbered years. The NIHCC members who have been nominated are:

- President: Dale Lewis

- Vice President: Karen Goldman

Dale Lewis has graciously agreed to run for the position of President. He joined NIHCC in 2014 and became a Board member in 2015, serving as one of the club's Digital Czars. Karen Goldman has agreed to run for the position of Vice President. She joined NIHCC in 2017 and became a Board member in 2020, when she began serving as Membership Coordinator. She became Nominating Committee Chair in 2022. Margaret Sprott announced the upcoming election in the January 2023 President's Chat in *Cameraderie*, and asked members who are interested in a position with the club to contact Karen Goldman. Since no one has contacted Karen, the Nominating Committee is nominating Dale for the position of President, and Karen for Vice President. However, you can still let Karen know if you are interested in running and taking on the responsibilities of these positions. This is your chance, because additional names may be submitted by any Club member before, or during, the June meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee Karen Goldman, Chair Stan Collyer Rhina Cabezas 2023 Board Nominees

> President: Dale Lewis

Vice President: Karen Goldman

Elections are in June!

Call for Nominations – The 2023 NIH Camera Club Lorraine Lasko Service Award

You are cordially invited to submit your nomination for the 2023 Lorraine Lasko Service Award. This award honors our long-time member and dear friend, Lorraine Lasko, who made an exceptional contribution to our club by serving as our Program Chair for over 10 years.

Our club is fortunate to have many people who have provided significant service to keep the club running smoothly for the benefit of us all – and we are very grateful to all who have given so generously of their time and talents. However, the Lorraine Lasko Service Award will recognize exceptional service to the club, whether it be long-term service like Lorraine's or service during a shorter period of time that required exceptional time and effort. Nominations must be received by **Friday, May 26, 2023.**

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must be a current member of the NIH Camera Club. However, the service to be recognized may be either past service or service the member is currently providing. An individual member may only win the award once (see previous winners below). The award winner will be selected by the Board in a written, secret ballot. Current Board members are eligible for the award; however, if they are nominated, they must recuse themselves from voting to select the winner of the award.

Any current club member may nominate someone for the award by filling out the form below. The Board will accept one nomination per club member.

Name of Nominator:	Date:	
Name of Nominee:		

Reasons for nominating this person for the Lorraine Lasko Service Award:

_(Use additional paper if necessary)

Send your nomination by regular mail or email to: Vickie Allin 5032 Allan Road Bethesda, MD 20816 Email: <u>vickie1247@gmail.com</u>

Previous winners:

2014 Pete Guion

2015 Vickie Allin

- 2016 Linda Eisenstadt
- 2017 Jim Turner
- 2018 Stan Collyer
- 2019 Diane Poole
- 2020 Gosia Klosek
- 2021 Saul Pleeter
- 2022 Cathrine Sasek



Register to become a member 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.ssccphotography.org/





https://www.mdphotoalliance.org/



PSA Annual Meeting: 2023



2023

September 27 through 30, in Williamsburg, Virginia Hotel: Doubletree by Hilton in Williamsburg



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

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You may now apply for, or renew, membership online at: <u>https://www.nihcameraclub.com/about-us-2/become-a-member/</u>.

You'll be directed to pay via PayPal (you don't need a PayPal account). If you prefer not to pay online, please print the application form below, then sign and mail it along with your check to the Treasurer. You must be a member to compete in monthly competitions.

You do not have to work at NIH to join the club.

For comments or questions contact club president Margaret Sprott at <u>margaret.sprott@gmail.com</u>

Club Officers and Committees

Meeting Location

President: Margaret Sprott

Vice President: Cathrine Sasek

Secretary: Gosia Klosek

Treasurer: Stan Collyer

Program Chair: Cathrine Sasek

Education, Workshop: Cathrine Sasek

Field Trip Chair: Vacant

Digital Czar(s): Quentin A. Fisher, Dale Lewis, Sammy Katta

Social Chair: Suzanne Dater

Membership Coordinator: Karen Goldman

Nominating Committee Chair: Karen Goldman

Communications Director: Ann McDermott

PSA Rep: Dick Sprott

Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions: Ann McDermott

Maryland Photography Alliance: Diane Poole

Editor: Diane Poole

Webmaster: Jim Turner



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



Competition Night: Second Tuesday of the month





NIH Camera Club

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:				
ADDRESS :				
PHONE #: HOME	ŒLL			
E-MAIL ADDRESS				
*****	************			
ANNUAL DUES (please check the appropriate	e line):			
<pre>\$Singlemembership: \$50</pre>				
\$_ Family membership (Family members in sar	ne household): \$75			
AMOUNT PAID S Cash	Check#			
****	******			
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NIH Came SEND TO: Stan Collyer, Treasurer 701 King Farm Blvd. Apt. 522 Rockville, MD 20850 Email: sccollyer@aol.com	ra Club			
Please indicate how you would like to be involve	ed in NIH Camera Club activities:			
Program Committee	Membership Committee			
Social Committee	Publicity Committee			
Field Trip Committee Workshop and Education Committee	Newsletter 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