Focal Points

The Vienna Photographic Society

P. O. Box 1212, Vienna, Virginia 22183-1212

Volume 5-01 *September 2016*

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VPS is a member of

PSA Photographic Society of America

https://www.psa-photo.org/

VPS meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays, Sept thru June at the Oakton Elementary School. Check website calendar at Vpsva.org for any date changes.

New Beginnings - 2015-2016

The new club year is just beginning and we have hopes that it will be a good one. To start the year off right Julie has found us a great speaker for September.

We are still in need of volunteers to step up into leadership roles. Please see one if the current officers to find out where you can help.

James Norman — Photographing the Northern Lights

September 7, 2016

By Julie Cochran

Jim Norman is a dedicated wildlife and landscape photographer who sees photography as his passport to adventure. "Photography gives me opportunities to see moments of surpassing beauty and sometimes drama, and helps me be mindful of the amazing natural processes and events that we too-often overlook, taking them for granted. And my photographs give me a way to share these experiences with others."

Jim's favorite photographic destination is Alaska, and he made many trips there and elsewhere to develop his approach to aurora photography, using shorter exposures and lower ISOs in contrast with the accepted practice of the recent past.

Jim recently began working with Road Runner Photography Tours to develop co-marketed workshops and tours in Alaska and other destinations. The first of these is a March 2017 tour in Alaska that will take a small group of photographers on a true adventure, beginning with photographing the start of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race at Willow, and then on to experience and photograph the northern lights at two remote locations, Chena Hot Springs and Bettles, a tiny village in the Arctic, 235 miles northwest of Fairbanks.

Jim is a member of the Loudoun Photo Club, the Northern Virginia Photographic Society, the Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers, and the North American Nature Photography Association, and is a Life Member of the National Wildlife Federation. His photographs are available at Arts in the Village Gallery in Leesburg and Bettles Lodge in Alaska.

September's Competition Judge Denise Silva

Our September's competition judge this year will be Denise Silva. Denise is a well-respected photographer and has judged numerous local club competitions and events around the local area. Actually this past August, Denise was the judge for the Vienna Arts Society's competition titled "On the Street". She did an excellent job providing positive feedback while judging a very competitive competition. Last year, Denise was the featured photographer in the July/August 2015 Photoshop User Magazine article: 'Who's Who in the KelbyOne Community'.

Denise finds every aspect of photography rewarding, from in-camera composition to post-processing, photography is meditative, creative, and challenging. Her passion is to capture images from landscapes to urban decay and to share her experiences and knowledge with fellow photographers.

To this end, she and Don Rosenberger started Road Runner Photography Tours.

http://roadrunnerphotographytours.com

Her motto: "There's no better place to learn and develop your skills than in the field!"

John Padbury VP - Judges

Themes for September Competitions

The monthly themes are listed below with some guidelines. In general, the themed subject does not have to be the only element in the images. But it must be the major figurative element and the focus of the image. Be creative and have fun! The final arbiter of whether a submitted image meets the theme is the judge for the evening. In the meantime, if you have additional questions, please contact Janet Gelb at Janet@gelbnet.com.

Please note that we have added three (3) Digital Art Themes this year. Many members requested this. This year will be a trial period to judge the level of interest and participation throughout the year. We have also included the Town of Vienna as a theme, so we can provide images for possible inclusion in the town calendar.

While all themes this year are optional, members are encouraged to participate in the theme categories. Frequently, the tendency is to take the same images over and over again. Trying to capture an image for a theme will push you outside the box to experiment with new subjects and ideas!

Black and White Photography - In this theme your images should display black and white tones that lack color and include neutral tones of black and white and intermediate shades of grey in a subject of your choosing. Also acceptable are black and white photographs in sepia.
Portraits - are normally photographs of a person that only include the person's head and shoulders and provide a detailed description of something or someone. Portraits for this theme may include animals such as dogs and cats as well as people, but not birds, fish or insects.

Janet Gelb, VP of Competitions

New Competition Manager for VPS

Hello! My name is Janet Gelb, and I'm the new competition manager. Loma Mier, the previous competition manager, has been doing a terrific job of teaching me the ropes. I'm looking forward to taking on this club roll and getting to know more of my fellow VPS members.

I've always liked taking pictures. Back in the day, I had a 35mm manual OM 1 Olympus film camera and a few lenses. I enjoyed it immensely. I also took a darkroom class and learned how to print my own B&W photos. Then digital came on the scene. I wasn't eager to replace my film equipment with digital because of the cost. So I invested in a Canon PowerShot SX110 with a zoom lens. This little camera worked quite well for me for many years. It gave me some great shots, and a solid introduction to what digital was all about.

When I retired, I decided to devote more time to learning about photography. To get me started, my family gave me a Nikon D3300 with two lenses. I joined the Vienna Photography Society and it's been great. I'm learning from the professional photographers who come and speak to our club every month, and from club members in our informal small group image critiques. Club members who are up to speed on Lightroom and other post processing software have also been happy to share their knowledge. The club competitions, in which we enter our images and pit them against the work of other club members, are another learning opportunity. It's always eye opening for me to see the variety of ideas and techniques other photographers

use! The images are critiqued and judged by professional photographers, and the winners are recognized with ribbons.

When Loma asked me if I would take over the competition manager job, I quickly said "yes". It will be a great way for me to keep learning and get more involved in the club. I'm looking forward to seeing all of your competition images!

SEPTEMBER FORUM: CRITIQUE CIRCLES SEPTEMBER 28, 7:30 PM

The VPS Forum for September, Critique Circles, will be held at 7:30 PM on September 28, in the Oakton School Cafeteria. As described elsewhere in this issue, each "circle" will consist of 4-6 VPS members, including a VPS member serving as leader, seated around a table.

The composition of each circle will be based on responses to a Call for Participants that will be sent to all VPS members earlier in the month. Participants will be assigned to circles in such a way that there will be a wide range of experience at each table. Each member of the circle will show a number of his or her images to the others in the group; the images may be in the form of small unmatted prints or brought to the Forum on a thumb drive. The others in the circle will make comments and offer suggestions to improve the images.

VPS members who prefer not to submit images are welcome; they will not be assigned to a circle and will be free to "float" among them as observers, and to make comments and suggestions. Only images brought to the Forum by members will be critiqued. The tables are encouraged to continue "virtually" after the Forum so that participants can show their tablemates how they have changed their images in response to their suggestions.

Keep on the lookout for the Call for Participants early in September.

Mort Friedman, VP Forums

Quote of the Month

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

PSA Report: PSA Interclub Competition 2016-17: Travel, Nature and Open

Photographic Society of America (PSA) is an organization that offers photographic competitions and activities that span all continents, for both individuals and camera clubs.

VPS has been a PSA club member for many years. As such we are entitled to participate in the PSA Interclub Competitions, which pit clubs from all over the world against one another. Both club honors and individual awards can be achieved.

This season VPS will participate in Open (or Projected Image Division-PID), Nature and Travel categories of the PSA Interclub Competition. All VPS members are encouraged to participate. There are several rounds of competition for each category and deadlines will appear on our club calendar. We are only able to enter six images for each category. To select which pictures to enter in the Open (or PID), members will vote for their favorite submissions. We will enter the pictures with the most votes into the competition. Judges will select the travel and nature images from those entered that will move onto the PSA.

For more information you can check out the PSA website:

Nature at https://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-nature-interclub-competition

Travel at https://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-photo-travel-interclub-competition

Open (PID) at https://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?pid-interclub-competition

Of note are the rules for the Nature and Travel competitions. These categories are reality-based, meaning that nothing can be added or removed from the image except by cropping, and the image must appear natural. Nature images may not have any human elements within the image. This includes buildings, fences, roads, cultivated/ hybrid plants, and domesticated animals.

The first chance to participate is in the Nature category, with entry deadline in late September.

Kathy Swoboda, PSA Representative

A Place for Textures, Shapes, and Decay

David Blecman of posneg.com, one of our speakers, leads workshops in the Washington, Baltimore, and Annapolis areas. On June 12th he took a group to Housewerks, an architectural Salvage Yard.

http://housewerkssalvage.com/collections/garden

1415 Bayard Street Baltimore MD 21230

During the workshop he and explained how to use a gray card to create a custom white balance for your cameras. And, he showed how to expose for the maximum range of shadow and highlight details with an incident light meter.

These are a few of the shapes, textures, and decay I saw. The items at Housewerks may be useful for some of the upcoming competition themes such as textures and black & white. You can contact the business to find out about visiting them.

Nature Visions Update

Nature Visions is now open for business, on several levels. This is a summary of what is going on and what you will need to do.

1. **Schedule**. Here's the remaining schedule for this year's Expo:
    - 8/22/2016 – Image Upload Available
    - 9/19/2016 – Upload with Review and Opportunity to Resubmit ends
    - 9/24/2016 – Image upload ends
    - 9/25-26/2016 – Final Image Review Period
    - 9/27/2016-10/10/2016 – Judging
    - 10/11-17/2016 – Statistics Gathering
    - 10/17/2016 – Announce Selected Images
    - 10/19/2016-11/11/2016 – Clubs Collect Images (exact dates determined by club)
    - 11/11/2016-11/14/2016 – Clubs Review Mounting/Matting
    - 11/18/2016 Club Representatives deliver prints to NV2016 for display
2. **Image Submissions**. You can submit your images at http://naturevisions.org/the-exhibits/expo-submissions/. There is a blue button "Enter Photos Here". Be sure to read the tabs "Eligibility", "Nature Rules", and "Photo Art Rules" before submitting.

    If you submit images before Sept. 19, and an image of yours is rejected, you will be able to submit an edited version of the image (that satisfies the rules) or a new image. After that date, rejected images cannot be replaced.
3. **Ticket Sales**. Tickets can be purchased at http://www.eventbrite.com/e/nature-visions-2016-photo-expo-tickets-23064629929?aff=eac2. Those who were members of the participating clubs last year get a $40 discount. To use the discount, please follow the following procedure:
    - Your discount code is the email address you use for VPS.
    - You may apply the discount to the purchase of one Merchant Hall Theater pass (our best

value) or one other pass to a single presentation.

- **In a first, single transaction:**

  Please be sure to use the discount for the highest priced presentation or pass that you plan to purchase for NVPE 2016. If your discount is applied to the purchase of a pass less than $40 in value, the unused discount amount is NOT available for other passes.

  Click on the text "Enter promotional code" just above the big "Order Now" button. Enter your discount code in the text box and click "Apply". Then click "Order Now".

- **Then, In another transaction:**

  You will need to purchase passes to any additional presentations in a second, separate transaction. No discount will apply.

4. **Collection of printed images**. If you have one or more images juried in, I will let you know which ones they are. You then have until Nov 2 to get them to me. I will try to be at every VPS meeting between Oct 19 and Nov 16 (Oct 19, Oct 26, Nov 2). If I cannot be there, I will arrange for Bill Mugg or someone else to pick them up. If you cannot make it to one of those meeting, you may contact me to arrange for a time and place to drop them off with me. I will examine the images and matting to be sure the matting is secure, and those that are not may be returned to you for fixing.

   Remember that those who get images juried in are expected to volunteer for work during the Expo. Bill Mugg will be handling the volunteer sign-up list for Nature Visions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Enjoy the Expo!

Martin Fish
VPS Nature Visions Rep.

Creating Stills from Your Camera's Video

By Wayne Wolfersberger

If you shoot video from your DSLR or mirrorless camera and want to create a print, it can be done using movie editing software that is most likely on your computer. I happened to capture video of a house wren that had caught a praying mantis and wanted to make a print. It was just my unfortunate luck that I had switched from still shots to video when this unexpected drama unfolded.

I had been shooting house wrens bringing a variety of insects and spiders to their nest box to feed their young when I decided to record a bit of video. I never expected to capture the very unusual! I was disappointed that it was not a raw image, just jpg video.

To make a print I brought the very short video (only two seconds) into imovie on my Mac as a ***new event***. Then opened up ***new project*** and dragged the clip to the project location. Next I used the arrows to go through the video frame by frame to pick one that was sharp and in good focus. (Each frame was recorded at 1/60th of a second) so that when the wren was motionless on the branch before going to the nest box I could select a good frame showing the mantis in focus as well.

Next I opened it to full screen and used ***Screen shot (command + shift + 3)*** to get the image onto my desktop when I then used Photoshop to crop from a horizontal to a vertical image (losing about half of the full frame video) as seen in the picture. Typical adjustments were then made such as levels, curves and sharpening.

VPS Board Members

President	VACANT	
First VP	David Kepley	kepley.david@gmail.com
Secretary	Debbi Rife	angeltaz_2@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Burgess Levin	burgessblc@aol.com
VP-Speakers	Julie Cochran	catlady1821@cox.net
VP-Judges	John Padbury	faotc@aol.com
VP-Comp.	Janet Gelb	janet@gelbnet.com
Digital Proj.	Committee	Sharon, Joan, Bob Bills and Verkat
VP Mem Com	Gloria Spellman	spellg1@aol.com
PSA Rep	Kathy Swoboda	kswoboda2421@gmail.com
Focal Points	Mary Jane Fish	maryjane_fish@yahoo.com
	Barbara Saffir	barbarajoansaffir@yahoo.com
Dir Publicity	David Heagy	dheagy@gmail.com
Membership	Paige Counts	paigecounts@mac.com
Dir Website	Gloria Spellman	spellg@aol.com
VP Forums	Mort Friedman	mhfriedm@gwu.edu
VP Field Trips	Mary Jane Fish	maryjane_fish@yahoo.com
VP Field Trips	Lori Saunders, Barbara Saffir and Martin Fish	
VP Operations	Joseph Morton	ffig2005@yahoo.com
Social Events	Carol Caroll	csquared02@yahoo.com
Exhibits	VACANT	
Gift Cards	Julie Cochran	catlady1821@cox.net
50/50 Raffle	Julie Cochran	catlady1821@cox.net
Nat.Vis.Rep.	Martin Fish	fishmp48@yahoo.com
Nat.Vis B/U	Bill Mugg	billmuggster@gmail.com

Forum Calendar, 2016-2017

Below is the planned Forum calendar for the 2016-2017 VPS year. The VPS Forums are run by and for the membership with the goal of making us better and happier photographers. The projected program is based on your responses to the Survey Monkey poll sent out in June. All but one of the Forums will be held in the Oakton Elementary School auditorium; the September 2016 Forum will be held in the Oakton cafeteria. Forums are held on the **fourth Wednesday of the month, except during Holiday seasons.**

Also, please note request for expressions of interest in a matting workshop in conjunction with Nature Visions Photo Expo, and respond if interested.

September 2016: Critique circles. Each circle consists of 4-6 members, including a Table Leader, seated around a table. Each member of the group shows a number of his or her images to the others in the group, who make comments and offer suggestions for improvement.

October: Creative challenge. This is a new format for VPS**.** Members are invited to create a set of images subject to very stringent rules, obtained by polling the membership. Some possibilities are: in your bathroom, five feet from your front door, or lying on your back. Participants show their images to the members, for open discussion.

January 2017: How-to miniseminar/Sharing favorites. VPS members give short presentations to the entire group on topics of broad member interest. These could be in a panel format and include demonstrations. Miniseminars may be accompanied by optional "homework" assignments.

February: Editing exercise. Several unedited image files are made available to the membership prior to the Forum. Members who choose to participate edit any number of these images (no more than one final version of each image) and submit their final images online. The originals and the submissions are shown at the Forum and discussed by the group.

March: Portfolio preview. This Forum is reserved for a first look at members' work in the VPS portfolio project, if there is one this year. If not, an alternative Forum will be held during this time slot.

April: Conventional critique. Three VPS reviewers provide constructive critiques of members' images projected in the auditorium. Each member can submit up to six images for review.

May: Field trip images. Members display images made during the VPS field trips that are held throughout the year. If a portfolio project is held this year, the final **Portfolio review** by an outside reviewer will also take place during this Forum.

Those familiar with earlier Forum calendars will note that no **Matting Workshop** has been scheduled within the Forum program. For the past several years, this workshop occupied a Forum time slot coordinated with the submission schedule for Nature Visions Photo Expo. The June Survey Monkey indicated that member interest in the Matting Workshop was much less than that for any other proposed Forum format; accordingly, it has been dropped from the Forum calendar for the coming year. I have offered to be an initial point-of-contact for an ad hoc workshop that could be held if there is sufficient interest. **If any VPS member is willing to teach in the workshop, or would like to learn matting at the workshop – or thinks they might – please let me know** (mhfriedm@gwu.edu) **by mid-September.** Jurying for NVPE will be complete by Oct. 17, with prints due Nov. 11.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the Fall.

Mort Friedman, VP Forums

Field Trips for 2016-2017

This year we have a Field Trip Committee to try and set up interesting field trips for the members of VPS. We need your help. The committee includes Lori Saunders, Barbara Saffir, Martin and Mary Jane Fish. Martin and Mary Jane are building a house in Chattanooga, TN and will be leaving the area by the end of the year.

Please let us know if you would be willing to help with this committee. If each member of the committee took the responsibility for one or two field trips we would probably be covered. It would entail finding a location for the field trip, writing up an article for Focal Points advertising the trip and then following up with a field trip report once the field trip is completed. Would you prefer weekday or weekend field trips? We can try to set up some of each. We will also let you know when there are other Meet-Up groups gathering in the local area.

September Field Trip – Great Falls Park Virginia

On Sunday, September 18th, the Vienna Photography Society will have their first field trip for the new year. Since this is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service it is only fitting to explore on of the national parks close to home – Great Falls Park Virginia.

We plan to meet at the Visitors Center on the Virginia side of Great Falls at 8:00 AM to begin our journey. The address is 9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA 22102. Anyone wanting to carpool should meet at the Vienna Metro Parking lot on the Vienna side of Rt66 at 7:15 to get or share a ride with someone else.

We are trying to match up the themes for the year with the field trip locations and opportunities. Great Falls is a great place for **Landscape** photography. These landscapes can be turned into beautiful **Black and White** images.

We are asking everyone to bring their favorite hat or prop so we can work on taking **Portraits** of each other.

For more info on Great Falls see the below website:

https://www.nps.gov/grfa/planyourvisit/falls-viewing.htm

If you plan to go, please call/text Martin Fish at 703-969-8907 or text Lori Saunders at her cell 703-980-7475; or email Barbara Saffir at BarbaraJoansaffir@yahoo.com or text Barbara at her cell number 571-449-0445. Give your cell phone number when responding.

October Field Trip – Swannanoa Palace

The Vienna Photographic Society's October 15th, 2016 field trip is to the Swannanoa Palace located near Charlottesville, VA about 2 ½ hours from the DC area.

It is a partially crumbling, but still magnificent, Italian Renaissance Revival villa built in 1912 by millionaire and philanthropist James H. Dooley (1841–1922) above Rockfish Gap on the border of northern Nelson County and Augusta County, Virginia. It is partially based on buildings in the Villa Medici, Rome.

There are extensive rooms and stairways in varying states of disrepair, including a tower view of the impressive grounds which are also open for exploration. The address for your GPS is 497 Swannanoa Ln, Afton, VA 22920; the facility is open to the public from 11:15 until 5:30 pm that day. We will plan to meet at the Palace entrance area around 11:30 am. As it is very near the intersections of Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway, there should be many opportunities for photography that morning of fall colors for anyone who plans to go the night before or earlier in the morning.

There is a $6 entry fee (cash or check ONLY). The Historical tour is just $2 additional (total of $8) if anyone is interested in that as well. Please RSVP to Lori (loriasaunders@gmail.com) or Barbara (BarbaraJoansaffir@yahoo.com) with your cell phone # if you plan to attend. Tripods are allowed. For more information, see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swannanoa_(mansion).

November Field Trip - Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

In keeping with tradition, the Vienna Photographic Society's November 25 through 27, 2016 overnight field trip is to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, VA. If you plan to attend, we will be meeting at the Refuge on Friday; the address is 8231 Beach Road Chincoteague Island, VA 23336.

The park is open from 6am to 8pm 7 days a week. There is a daily entry fee of $8.00, a 7 day pass for $15.00, a senior pass (65 and older) for $10.00. If you have a NPS/NWR pass then you can get in for free.

If you have never been to Chincoteague, the Best Western Hotel is the closest accommodation to the wildlife refuge however there are many places to stay nearby. See the following website: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g57602-Chincoteague_Island_Virginia-Hotels.html

Barbara says "I would suggest making the hotel reservation early because rates increase at Thanksgiving — even off season in little old Chincoteague. I just booked the Hampton for $122 but it drops to $86 after the holiday. I will probably check back a couple of times to see if the price has dropped. I like being on the so-called 'waterfront.' It and the Marriott seem to be the nicest hotels there."

If you plan to attend, please call/text the following information, your CELL PHONE NUMBER and HOTEL you plan to stay at to Martin Fish at 703-969-8907 or text Lori Saunders at her cell 703-980-7475; or email Barbara Saffir at BarbaraJoansaffir@yahoo.com or text Barbara at her cell number 571-449-0445. Please feel free to explore the following web sites:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague/

http://www.chincoteague.com/assateagueisland.html

December Field Trip – Up For Grabs

We are asking for suggestions for the December Field Trip. Do you have a favorite place you like to visit to see Holiday Lights? Or someplace just to get the spirit of the holidays? Would you be willing to lead this field trip?

Send your suggestions to Martin Fish at 703-969-8907 or text Lori Saunders at her cell 703-980-7475 or email at loriasaunders@gmail.com ; or email Barbara Saffir at BarbaraJoansaffir@yahoo.com or text Barbara at her cell number 571-449-0445. We are looking for new places for field trips so put on your thinking caps.

Questions about any of these field trips or to make suggestions please contact Mary Jane Fish, Maryjane_fish@yahoo.com.

If you haven't been to Chincoteague in August, the Wildlife Drive looks like a fairyland, encircled by white, light pink, and dark pink hibiscus-family mallows. And there are hundreds of egrets (& ibises, black skimmers, etc.) But lots of bug spray is required!

MEMBERS NEWS

Wayne Wolfersberger: Had an image selected by Nature's Best for their Yellowstone Forever Competition. It was one of 100 selected out of over 11,000 entries.

Also, three images of Yellowstone were selected for the Yellowstone Association's 2017 wall calendar. They are the main images for March (grizzly and cub in snow), August (bison herd), and October (a foggy sunrise).

An image of a ruby-throated hummingbird appeared in the most recent (July/August) Virginia Wildlife Magazine.

Wayne presented a program in June on Shooting Sunrises and Sunsets to the OLLIE organization at GMU Campus.

In the fall, Wayne will be teaching a class on Nature Photography (4 classes and two field trips) and a workshop on photographing waterfalls with the Fairfax County Parks: see Parktakes Online at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/

On the Street Winners

The photography Exhibit at the Vienna Arts Society was a huge success and members of VPS did very well in the competition. The photographs were not labeled when Denise came to review the show. Denise identified her selections by the codes we put on the photographs when we received them.

Denise Silva's Comments:

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to judge this wonderful exhibit. It is always an honor. I also would like to apologize for not being able to join you for the reception, but I had prior commitments.

I would like to congratulate everyone who participated and recognize that there are many wonderful images on display, making my job difficult!

The images I have selected have a few things in common.

1) The artist embraced the theme of "On the Street".

2) The artwork made me stop and wonder what is going on and made me want to be there to find out more.

3) The artwork is technically sound, meaning: in focus, well composed and well processed.

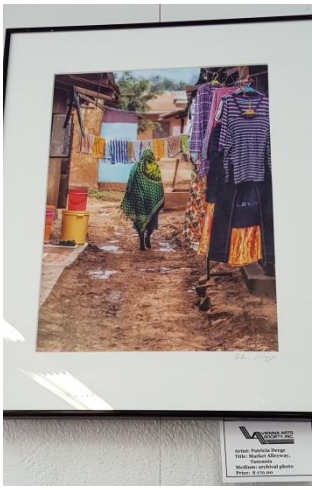
Let's take a look at the winners

Honorable Mention [JANET GELB, Avignon Street]

– A busy street scene in what looks to be Europe. Tons of activity. The image conveys the hustle and bustle, the sounds of the Merry-go-round, the family planning the rest of their day. The images make me wonder, where I would go next, what is at the theatre tonight, and more.

Honorable Mention [PATRICIA DEEGE, Market Alleyway, Tanzania]

– A totally different street scene; unpaved, muddy, dirty and dusty, yet the colors are beautiful and she is wearing shoes with heels…such an incredible contrast with the environment. Again, an image that pulls you in and makes you wonder who she is and where is she going? The foreground and subject are in focus, with a nice drop off demonstrating distance to the background. The image again has enough texture that you know your shoes would be dirty too, if you were there.



Second Place [JANET GELB, Street Painter]

– This image shows an artist hard at work. Her hands, feet and legs are covered with chalk. The concentration on her face is evident as she creates her masterpiece. This image makes me want to see the entire street scene. It makes me want to sit and watch the creation as it is built. The subject is in focus. Color and light are managed well. There is enough texture that you can almost feel the chalk on her feet and hands.

First Place [PATRICIA DEEGE, Weaver in the Marketplace, Cuzco, Peru]

– This image is beautiful seen and composed. The lighting is intriguing, the colors and tonality are spot on. I want to know what she is making, what she is thinking, what is around her, what is her story. The subject is sharp, the composition is sound with great lines, and the post process enhances the feel of the environment, with just enough texture and grit to make you feel like you are standing there with the photographer.

As I mentioned before, I believe that great images draw you in. They make you stop and wonder. In addition to all

the wonderful images presented, these particular images drew me back to them, multiple times and made me think and ask and want to be there.

Well done and congratulations!

Denise Silva.

Barbara Saffir holds some new book events. Hope you can make one — or please tell a friend.

All walks and talks are also updated on her Web site: www.WalkingWashingtonDC.com

Sept. 11, 2:30 p.m.

Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Library (branch of Washington, DC public library)

4450 Wisconsin Ave., NW; Washington, DC, 202-727-1488

Book talk and signing.

Library: http://dclibrary.org/tenley

Thursday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.

Chantilly Regional Library (Fairfax County Public Library branch)

4000 Stringfellow Rd., Chantilly, VA, 703-502-3883

Book talk and signing.

Library:
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/

Online registration:
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/

Sept. (date/time to come)

Arlington Central Library

1015 North Quincy St., Arlington, VA, 703-228-5990

Book talk and signing.

Library: http://library.arlingtonva.us/locations/central-library/

Saturday, Oct. 22, 10:30 a.m.

Patrick Henry Library (Fairfax County Public Library branch) (by W&OD Trail & Route 123)

101 Maple Ave., East, Vienna, VA, 703-938-0405
Book talk and signing.

Library:
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/

Online registration here:
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/

BITS AND PIECES

This column is for things of interest to photographers. It can include contests, exhibitions, and general information on cameras and software.

I am asking members to send me notices that they are aware of any items that fit into these categories.

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna is part of the Northern Virginia Parks and will open their gates to all interested photographers and others at 6AM on Sunday **Sep 11 and on Saturday Oct 15.** Cost is $2.50 to $5.

Normally the grounds do not open until 10AM which is a little late for photographers. Link below. You can then open up "Events".

https://www.novaparks.com/parks/**meadowlark-botanical-gardens**

Critique Opportunities:

Coffee & Critique- Glen Echo
http://glenechophotoworks.org/2013/05/19/coffee-critique/

Bryan Peterson School of Photography online critiques
http://bpsop.com/photo-review-contest/

Day of Photography at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

On Saturday, September 24th, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden presents its sixth Day of Photography program, with workshops and demos for beginners to seasoned photographers. A great addition this year is a demonstration and workshop with Bob Schamerhorn on Bird Portraiture, using tethered raptors from Eagle Pines Falconry and Raptor Rescue.

There are demonstration opportunities, lectures, and displays about area photography clubs and services. Instructors include Gerry Bishop, Ken Conger, Bill and Linda Lane, Anthony Rumley, Bob Schamerhorn and Tom Veazey.

Link to the event listing on our web page:
http://www.lewisginter.org/event/a-day-of-digital-slr-photography-in-the-garden/

Conference

2016 Photographic Society of America (PSA): September 10-17, 2016
https://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?2016-psa-conference

Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival

Way, way, *WAY* before Virginia's quaint Eastern Shore morphs into anything resembling either Ocean City or The Hamptons, check it out Oct. 6-9 during the Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival. Some events, such as a hawk watch/talk, are free at Kiptopeke State Park in Cape Charles (just north of Virginia Beach via the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel) but most birding and boating trips require reservations. The 23-mile long bridge-tunnel itself is worth a gander.
http://www.esvabirdingfestival.com/

And there's a photo contest! Categories: Best Bird in Action, Best Perched or Still Bird, Best Youth, Best Other Wildlife and Birders in Action
http://www.esvabirdingfestival.com/#!photo-contest/cbotm

http://www.cbbt.com/

EARTH.WATER.AIR

An Exhibition of Photography

Photoworks Gallery in Historic Glen Echo Park is pleased to present work from three talented photographers -- Rebecca Clews, Leslie Kiefer and Caroline Minchew -- who have beautifully captured the mystery, majesty and movement of the natural world.

Cliff Dwellers | **Rebecca Clews**

Rebecca Clews

Inspired by J.M.W. Turner and Chinese sublime landscape paintings, Clews builds imaginary -- sometimes fantastic -- scenes from a multitude of microscopic photographs.

Leslie Kiefer

The juncture of earth, water and sky forms the basis of Kiefer's images, which are influenced by Japanese woodblock prints and the wabi-sabi concept of beauty as imperfect, impermanent and incomplete.

Caroline Minchew

Using a large format camera and printing in luminous platinum and palladium, Minchew transforms expansive landscapes into intimate, personal experiences.

Photoworks Gallery @ Glen Echo Park

7300 MacArthur Boulevard

Glen Echo, MD

Hours: Saturdays 1-4 PM and Sundays 1-8 PM

www.glenechophotoworks.org

@glenechophotoworks

Photo and Exhibit Opportunities

Vienna calendar and newsletter events (contact D. Heagy for dropbox):

Saturdays Vienna Farmer's Market (8 AM to 12), 301 Center Street South, Vienna, VA 22180

Smithsonian:

Nature's Best Photography: Windland Smith Rice International Awards Presents: The Best of the Best to Fall 2016 -Natural History Museum

Primordial Landscapes: Iceland Revealed until April 2017 -Natural History Museum

Picture Williamsburg

Veteran photo instructors Jennifer Davidson and Krista Rossow are pleased to announce a new photo workshop in Virginia's Colonial Triangle this October.

WHAT: Picture Williamsburg, a 4-day travel photography workshop which will explore Williamsburg, Virginia, with on location shoots in Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Jamestowne, and Yorktown Battlefield.

WHEN: October 20-23, 2016.

WHERE: Classroom will be at Colonial Williamsburg's Providence Hall.

WHO: Beginning to Intermediate photographers who want to improve their travel images, with emphasis on people photography, through a combination of on location shoots in classroom lectures and critiques.

WHY: October is a beautiful time of year to explore the Colonial Triangle while honing your photographic skills alongside two industry professionals.

For more information, please visit the workshop website or contact Jennifer or Krista directly.

Krista Rossow
Photographer & Photo Editor
Represented by National Geographic Creative
www.kristarossow.com : +1.541.729.9456

Opportunity to Exhibit and Sell Your Photos at the Waterford Fair (October 7-9, 2016)

The annual Waterford Fair — one of the mid-Atlantic region's best events — will be held October 7-9. This year, the Waterford Fair Photography Exhibit has a significantly expanded focus and presence and offers you a great opportunity to exhibit and sell your photos.
The Waterford Photography Exhibit is a judged exhibit of framed photographs, with nine categories, each with a cash prize for best photo (up to $500 for the Best Loudoun Photo). You can enter two photos into the exhibit for $30, or three photos — one of which must be in the Best Loudoun Photograph category — for $35.
If you exhibit a photo, you may also provide additional photos to be offered for sale during the Fair (there is a 25% commission on all sales). If you just want to sell some of your images, without competing in the Exhibit, you can do so for a fee of $30. See the link below for full information.
Categories —
* Abstract
* Architecture
* Best Loudoun Photograph
* Landscape
* Nature Studies / Animals
* Photojournalism
* Portrait
* Still Life
* Waterford Fair / Waterford Scene

Important Dates —

* Drop off: Friday, September 30, or Saturday, October 1 from 10 am to 2 pm. Directions are in the Prospectus.

* Preview all works the evening of Thursday, October 6 at the Waterford Fair Preview Party!

* Volunteer opportunities available. See the Prospectus for details and sign up when you drop off your photos.

* Pick up: Photographs must be removed from the Barn on Sunday, October 9 between 5 and 6 pm or, on Monday, October 10 between 9 and 10 am.

2016 Judges —

Jack Nevitt is a professional photographer with more than 25 years of experience. His work ranges from nature and wildlife to landscapes, travel, macro and portraiture. His photo of a Cormorant Wing was on the cover of the National Wildlife Magazine in Dec 2012. He has also been published in Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Time Life Magazine, Loudoun Magazine and other publications.

Alan DeFelice has won numerous regional and international awards. His pictures have been published in Serenity Magazine and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's monthly publication. He has photographed album covers for local recording artist Michael Joanes. Alan has also been a speaker at the Mid-Atlantic Nature Vision Photography Expo and conducted the Raptor Photography workshop.

How to Participate — Full information is available at —

The entry form, official photo labels and introductory letter are available online at www.waterfordfoundation.org/fair.

 Hard copies may be obtained by mail on request to the Waterford Fair Office at fairadmin@waterfordfoundation.org or by phone at (540) 882-3018 ext. 4.

Other Photo Opportunities

LABOR DAY

OPEN HOUSE

@ PHOTOWORKS

Meet our Photoworks faculty.

See some amazing signature images.

Check out our new fall classes.

Saturday, September 3, 2016

12 noon - 4:00 pm

NEW CLASSES!!

PHOTOWORKS FALL 2016

CLICK HERE FOR COMPLETE FALL 2016

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS SCHEDULE

Southern West Virginia Mountains

Fall Photo Workshop

Oct 14 -16, 2016

With Irene Hinke-Sacilotto (Osprey Photo Workshops & Tours)

www.ospreyphoto.com

Workshop Description:

This is my third photography workshop in Southern West Virginia Mountains in the vicinity of the New River Gorge Scenic River. It is one of my favorite locations to visit in the fall. The program is focused on nature photography and is designed to improve overall photographic skills and creativity while optimizing the use of your camera features. Includes a Friday evening orientation at the Quality Inn in Beckley, WV, followed by photography in the field on Saturday and Sunday with visits to the New River Gorge rim, Glade Creek Grist Mill, Sandstone and Cathedral Falls, and Hawks Nest State Park. Includes PowerPoint presentation with photo tips, image critiques, and one-on-one assistance in field. Potential photo subjects -- autumn color, fall wildflowers, cascading creeks, waterfalls, picturesque overlooks, historic settings, and local wildlife. Limit — 3 to 8 participants.

PRICE – $ 690 based on double occupancy; $ 796 (single occupancy).
Deposit – 50 % of total (Balance due 30 days prior to start of workshop).
Cost includes instruction, park fees, and 2 nights accommodations at the Quality Inn in Beckley. Continental breakfast included.

For details and to register, go to the following website:
http://www.ospreyphoto.com

Irene Sacilotto
facebook.com/ospreyphotoworkshops
www.ospreyphoto.com

If you cannot meet up with the VPS Field Trip we will be listing other opportunities.

The Road Runners Meet Up Group:
http://www.roadrunnerphotographytours.com

Shutterbug Excursions:
https://www.meetup.com/shutterbugexcursions/, and

Virginia Beltway Photography Meetup:
https://www.meetup.com/Virginia-Beltway-Photography-Meetup

More Exhibits

Other exhibit opportunities:

Exhibition Proposals

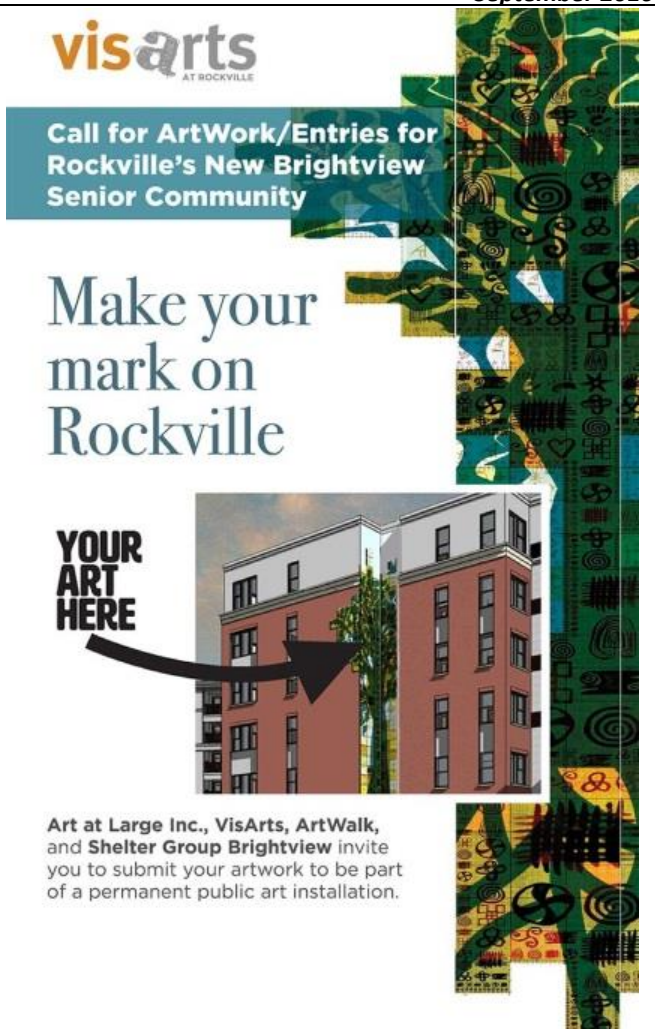
The Arts Space Herndon, Greater Reston Arts Center, McLean Project for the Arts, and the Workhouse Arts Center accept exhibition proposals from artists and curators. Check for details here.
http://www.artspaceherndon.com/calls-for-art
http://restonarts.org/exhibitions/exhibition-proposals
http://www.mpaart.org/artist-opportunities
http://www.workhousearts.org/get-involved/artist-opportunities

Other NoVA exhibition opportunities:
Athenaeum Gallery
Gallery Underground

Washington School of Photography (WSP)
Located within WSP, the Washington Gallery of Photography hosts monthly gallery shows, open to the public, and consisting of work from mid-Atlantic Photographers. They hold regular gallery receptions, hosted on the first Friday of each month. See details on their calendar at:
http://www.washingtonschoolofphotography.com/

Call for photography for WSP's 40th Anniversary Exhibition, 40 Years, 40 Photographs

On Friday, October 7th, 2016 Washington ArtWorks will open "40 Years, 40 Photographs", a juried photography exhibition in the Urban by Nature gallery. Forty photographs will be selected for exhibition by the jurors and one winner will be chosen by popular vote. **The winner will be given the opportunity to have a solo exhibition at Washington ArtWorks in 2017. We can only accept a limited number of entries, so do not wait until the deadline!**



We seek works of art illustrating life-affirming symbols - happiness, family, seasons, connection, love, and community - to be woven throughout a six-story public art installation on Rockville's newest building. All mediums, sizes, and colors will be accepted. Selected pieces will be incorporated into the final project that will be permanently affixed to the west-facing façade of the Brightview building.

There is no cost to enter.
A maximum of five pieces per entrant will be considered.

Resource Center

This is a space to look for workshops, classes and other tips for the photographer in you. Please send in any resources that you have tried and would like recommend to your fellow VPS members.

Instruction and workshops:

With Nikhil Bahl: www.NikhilBahl.com

With Capital Photography Center: http://www.capitalphotographycenter.com/

With Corey Hilz: http://coreyhilz.com

With Tony Sweet: http://tonysweet.com/

With Josh Taylor: http://joshuataylorphotography.com http://joshuataylorphotography.com/blog

With Bill and Linda Lane: http://www.lanephotoworkshops.com/

For Photoworks Classes: www.glenechophotoworks.org

For Infrared workshops with The New Life Photos Workshop: http://www.newlifephotos.com

Freeman Patterson/Andre Gallant: www.freemanpatterson.com.

Speakers We Have Heard:

Eliot Cohen, – Landscape and Lightroom
www.eliotcohen.com
www.facebook.com/eliotcohenphotography

Don Rosenberger, – Landscape and Night
www.donrosenberger.com and www.roadrunnerphotographytours.com.
www.Facebook.com/DonRosenbergerPhotography.

Irene Sacilotto, – Wildlife Photography
www.ospreyphoto.com
www.facebook.com/IreneSacilotto.

Corey Hilz, – Travel Photography
Website and blog: http://coreyhilz.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/CoreyHilzPhoto

Matthew Schmidt, – Close Up Photography
Website: www.loreleistudios.com
Contact: mgs@loreleistudios.com

Frank Van Riper, – Travel Photography
www.GVRphoto.com
www.talkingphotography.com

Denise Silva, – Composition
Road Runner Photography Tours (http://www.roadrunnerphotographytours.com/).
Also see http://denisesilvaphotography.com/

Brian Zwit – Flash Photography
School of Creative Photography www.SchoolofCreativePhotography.com
brian@creative-pix.com

Robin Kent – Night Photography
www.photographybykent.com.

Josh Taylor – Flowers and Garden Photography
http://www.joshuataylorphotography.com/

VPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: JULY 2016 through JUNE 2017

Mail this Application and your check (Payable to: "**VPS**") or cash to:

VPS, P.O. Box 1212, Vienna, VA 22183-1212

or hand the payment and application form during any VPS meeting to:

Paige Counts, Membership Director, or Burgess Levin, Treasurer

I am **( ) a New Member** OR **( ) Renewing** I have been a VPS member since the year (_____)

First Name*_____ Middle Initial ____ Last Name*_____

Street Address _____ City-State-Zip _____

Home Phone _____ - _____ Work Phone _____ - _____ Cell _____ - _____

Email* _____ *=required

NOTE: To receive the VPS Newsletter *FOCAL POINTS* and other membership messages, you must provide a unique and valid email address. *FOCAL POINTS* is distributed by email and on the club website as a PDF file. You will need an installed copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer to open it.

PRIVACY

Membership records are maintained by the Membership Director. Periodically, the records are distributed to members to manage VPS's business. Membership records may also be shared with the Nature Visions Photo Expo as part of VPS's participation in that event. Membership records are also available on the VPS website to club members only. VPS will not provide member information to persons or to organizations outside the club, other than specified above. Members may opt to restrict the display of their membership records to other members as follows. **Please check one of the two options below**. This will govern how your records may be displayed to other members on the VPS website:

INCLUDE ___ my name, phone number, home and email addresses. (This is the default option)

DO NOT INCLUDE ___ my phone number, home and email addresses. Please, include only my name.

DUES PAYMENT

I have enclosed ( ) my check or ( ) cash for:

( ) $40 for a **Single** Membership **( ) $20** for non-renewing members joining after January 31.

( ) $60 for a **Family Membership** **( ) $30** for non-renewing Family Members* joining after January 31

( ) $15 for a **Student** Membership (age 18 or under)

*Family members, please make **Separate Application** and use **Unique Email Address** for each member

VPS Liability & Publicity Release

In consideration of being given the opportunity to participate in a Vienna Photographic Society (VPS) field trip or other event, I acknowledge, agree and represent that I understand the nature of field trips and other VPS activities, and that I am qualified, in good health and in proper physical condition to participate in such field trips and activities. I fully understand that field trips and other VPS activities are conducted in different environments, and that, accordingly, my photography equipment and I may be exposed to dangers and hazards both natural and man-made. I fully accept and assume all risks and all responsibility for losses, costs, and damages I incur as a result of my participation in VPS field trips or other activities. I hereby release, discharge, and covenant not to sue VPS, its officers, directors, agents, independent contractors, volunteers, members and sponsors.

ADDITIONALLY, I authorize the use of any images submitted to VPS for use by VPS solely for publicity activities such as websites or brochures.

Acceptance of terms of VPS Liability Release (If under 18, parent or guardian must sign):

PRINTED NAME_____ Signature _____ Date _____

PARENT NAME _____ Signature _____ Date _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT VPS?

( ) **A Friend** ( ) **VPSVA.ORG** ( ) **Meetup.com** ( ) **Web Search** ( ) **VPS Card/Brochure**

( ) **Photo Expo or Exhibit** _____ ( ) **Photo Class or Store** _____

( ) **Newspaper** _____ ( ) **Other**_____ _____

PARTICIPATION IN VPS SUPPORT NETWORK

VPS has established a **Support Network** of members who wish to contribute **a few hours each month** to assist in VPS program activities, including providing assistance to VPS officers. The Support Network is mentored by the First Vice President of the Vienna Photographic Society.

Are you interested in being listed as a member of the VPS Support Network? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If yes, please indicate in what areas you might volunteer to help us (a VPS officer will follow up by email):

( ) **WILLING TO HELP WHERE NEEDED**

( ) **PUBLICITY**: Providing publicity and information to the community about VPS

( ) **INSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT**: Development of ideas for hands-on instructional programs like Forums

( ) **FIELD TRIPS**: Planning and arranging field trips

( ) **AUDIO-VISUAL SUPPORT**: ( ) Helping set up projection equipment at meetings.
( ) Learn to operate the projection program for competitions.

( ) **SPEAKER PROGRAM**: Help with planning guest speaker visits

( ) **GREETING**: Greeting new members and guests

( ) **HISTORIAN**: Assist in preparing historical documents about VPS activities

( ) **TABLE SETUP**: Help with setup for monthly photographic competitions

( ) **COMPETITION JUDGING**: Help with selection and planning of judges activity in monthly competitions

( ) **PRINT HANDLING**: Assist in passing prints during monthly competitions

( ) **NATURE VISIONS EXPO**: Help VPS Rep with the annual regional Nature Visions Photo Expo, Nov 11th-13th

( ) **EDITORIAL HELP**: Help by assisting Editor with editing/production of monthly newsletter

( ) **ARTICLE DEVELOPMENT**: Writing, soliciting or editing articles for monthly newsletter working with the Editor

( ) **PHOTO DISPLAY**: Help with planning and arranging member photo displays and external Exhibitions

( ) **WEBMASTER ASSISTANCE**: Help with assistance to VPS Webmaster

( ) **PARTY ASSISTANCE**: Help setting up parties and social events

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR USE BY THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

(Please print)

NAME: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Questions?: Contact David Kepley, kepley.david@gmail.com or 703-978-2961