

# FOCAL POINTS

## VIENNA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

### September Dates to Remember

**Sept 2-** Jean-Pierre Pie will be presenting In Camera Techniques for Making Non-literal Images. This will be a Zoom presentation at 7:30.

**Sept 13** - Deadline for submitting images for competition. Themes are - Nature and Fill the Frame, Open digital and Open Digital Art.

**Sept 16** - Competition Night.

**Sept 18-** Don't forget the Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions 2020 deadline for submissions is Sept. 18. Competition will be on-line this year with some new categories. Photo Art has been expanded to include the following subcategories:

Architecture, Abstract, Documentary & Street, Still Life, Sports & Action and Other

**Oct 7** - Our speaker will be Nikhil Bahl, who will present Photographic Voices and Visions.

### The Prez Sez

Well I guess I don't have to tell you that 2020 has been quite a year!

When the pandemic hit our area last spring, our Board was unsure about how to proceed. Eventually, like the rest of the country, we opted for continuing our programming using Zoom. Like most of you I wish I could see you in person, but given the circumstances, meeting virtually allows us to meet the core mission of our organization – to enhance the enjoyment of our members in their pursuit of photography.

So, for at least the balance of 2020, VPS will continue to deliver most of its programming via Zoom. We have speakers, competitions, and forums lined up for your enjoyment. Carol Shoemaker has some exciting field trips planned, as well.

The pandemic may be here, but the show goes on! Please participate and tell your friends about the great photographic fun that we are having here at VPS!

David Kepley

### The Big Picture

Do you just have the feeling 2020 is never going to end? Between the pandemic, riots, politics, hurricanes, and wild fires I am ready for a fresh start in 2021! But the closest I have for now is - Summer is Over!! So. . . I am going to tell you what I did on my summer vacation and how I incorporated using my iPhone.

My husband and I drove across the country to Idaho. We bought a small vacation home last fall and because of the pandemic our house still wasn't quite ready. We had a borrowed couch, bed and no blinds on the windows, but we





## September 2

### Jean-Pierre Ple will be our speaker!!

Jean-Pierre is a visual artist especially interested in the use of photography to express moments of deep connection. He embraces the concept that photography gives us a chance to see ourselves, to see our emotions, and maybe to see something about ourselves that we never saw before, or were unable to give voice to.

His subjects have expanded from an original focus on nature and landscapes, to now include

abstracts, architecture, macro, and in particular a mindful approach to photography. Sensing a deep desire for photographers to experience greater meaning in their work, he has led workshops on Contemplative and Mindful Photography (CAMP), an approach that puts experience above the results achieved. Inspired to make images that are less descriptive but more deeply felt, he often employs various techniques to make non-representational images. This has produced a portfolio of deeply personal, unique and contemplative images. Photographers who have most influenced his way of seeing and making images include Minor White, Freeman Patterson, and Guy Tal.

didn't care. So we loaded up the car and headed out. I decided I would document our road trip on my iPhone and I learned a few tips along the way. The biggest was to clean your windows each time you get gas!! lol Besides the numerous bug smears and some light reflection I think the photos turned out pretty well, not contest worthy but will definitely bring back the memories. (Hmmm can bug splats be removed from a photo for competition??) Most of my photos were taken from the car and most going 40 - 65 mph. The photo below on the top left is at a rest stop in Iowa. Truly the best I have been in! (My husband did allow a stop here - haha) The top right is at Craters of the Moon. And yes the others. . . somewhere in Idaho. But I have many more from all the states



This trip solidified that my iPhone can and does take really good photos and perhaps I may reconsider and enter one in competition to see how the iPhone stacks up. Also did you know the iPhone has a "live" feature that will record a 3 second video that is created of several shots and it will pick one photo that it thinks is the best to show on your screen. But, if you go to the edit screen you can view all the individual photos in the video, and choose whichever photo you like best. This 3 second video is very cool, but be careful it takes a lot more storage than just a photo. (Be sure to turn this feature off if you are going to use the phone in low light - it can make the photos grainy.) I had a lot of fun just using my phone and trying out slow motion and most of all not stressing over, where is my camera, what are my settings and still getting some pretty good photos. I consider this a win/win. And with everything else going on in the world I'll take every small win I can get. What big and/or small wins did you have this summer??

Barb Johnson

Focal Points Newsletter Editor

**Have you renewed your VPS Membership??**

No??? What are you waiting for???? We want everyone to know that even though we will not be able to meet at Thoreau Intermediate School at least for the near future, we WILL have an active Virtual fall season of activities and judged competitions. Please visit the website ([vpsva.org](http://vpsva.org)), use the drop-down menu "Organization" and use the "Dues Payments" menu to access PayPal to renew or become a member. Don't forget you need to be a member to enter into the Mid Atlantic Photo Vision competition. :)

**Field Trip to Old Town Alexandria Farmers Market**

**Saturday, September 26**, Meet at Old Town Market at corner of King St and N. Fairfax St at 9am. We will photograph in the colorful market-- flower and veggie stalls, kids, dogs, street scenes. Parking is free in the garage under the market square. Entrance to the garage is on N. Fairfax St. Plan for 1 hour at the market. Afterwards you may explore Old Alexandria on your own, or proceed to Jones Point Park for scenes of Old Light House, good views of the Wilson Bridge and Potomac.

Contact me if you are coming ,cell phone # included so we can coordinate while on site. Wear a mask! I'll be wearing an orange baseball cap with a black dog on the bill. Meet at King and N. Fairfax St --

Carol Shoemaker, VPS Field Trip Coordinator  
[cshoemaker2x@gmail.com](mailto:cshoemaker2x@gmail.com)

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**Mid Atlantic Photo Vision - COMPETITIONS ARE OPEN**

Competition is open and will be accepting photos until 11:59pm on Friday, September 18 2020. To enter the competition you must be a member in good standing. To enter your photos or to get more information regarding the different categories please go to [naturevisions.org](http://naturevisions.org).

The actual in person conference will be postponed until 2021.

There will be two FREE virtual sessions this year. The first session will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 1 - 2pm. Rick Sammon will present How to Get Motivated and Stay Inspired The second session will also be on November 7, 2020 from 4:30 - 6:30pm. Kristi Odom will present Photographing Local Biodiversity.

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**20-21 FORUMS**

Soon we'll kick off the VPS Forums which usually occurs on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of most months. It is likely that we will be doing these via Zoom for a while.

I've compiled a list of previous forum topics, and then added a few new ones based on feedback from the recent Annual Survey. Please take a look at these and vote on each one so I can use the results to plan the upcoming Forums. Note that there are quite a few more candidates for the Forum's this year than we have available slots, so your input on priorities is key.

Here is the link to the survey, if you can complete this by next Friday, Sept 4, that would be great!

<https://forms.gle/aL9uSCzzZeYwUXtN9>

*Please, Please, Please* take a moment to fill out the survey!!!

## SUMMARY OF VPS COMPETITION RULE CHANGES FOR 2020-2021 AND BEYOND

### **# of Digital Entries increased to 4**

While we are meeting virtually because of Covid-19, you may submit up to 4 digital images (instead of just 3) on a competition evening, and no more than 2 images in any one category.

### **New Competition Category—Open Digital Art**

We have removed the Digital Art Theme designation, and created a new competition category – **Open Digital Art**. This category is reserved for images that clearly depict “altered reality”. They may be of any subject, and should show an obvious change in natural color, form or shape or some combination of all three. Images altered to look like a painting, pencil drawing, or abstract would fit in this category. All images must be original, as well as any incorporated elements, including textures. Original artwork or computer graphics may be incorporated as long as the original photographic content predominates. Images may not be entirely computer generated. Creative digital filters, that manipulate existing photographic pixels to produce effects such as brush strokes and surface texture, are permitted. High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes would **not** be appropriate for this category.

With the Digital Art Category addition, we now have 4 competition categories:

- Open Prints (suspended while meeting virtually)
- Digital Monthly Themes (2 /month)
- Open Digital
- Open Digital Art

**All Images Rule** – This rule applies to all images, digital or print, submitted in **any** competition category:

- *All photos entered in a competition must be taken by the person submitting the photo. In categories where composites or other digital manipulations, are allowed, all work, including added textures and other elements must be created by the submitter.*

For all the “Open” competition categories and all regular themes in the Theme category, the above “**All Images Rule**” is the only post processing rule. Any software may be used as long as any elements added to the original image are created by the submitter.

### **New Theme Designation – “Realistic”**

The Competition manager may designate any theme for any month as “Realistic”. This means the post processing for this theme is limited so the realism of the image is preserved:

Spot removal, contrast and level adjustments, conversion to monochrome, color and saturation adjustments, and cropping are permitted. Focus stacking, HDR composites, stitched panoramas and other procedures that combine multiple images of the same scene are allowed. Combining multiple exposures of a changing scene is not allowed. Minor cloning to remove trash, power lines, etc. is allowed. Other techniques used to remove, rearrange pictorial elements, or add image elements or textures not in the original scene are not allowed.

## VPS THEMES FOR 2020 - 2021

Sept. 16	Nature (Realistic)* Fill the Frame
Oct. 21	Mirrors Bridges (Realistic)*
Nov. 18	Choose a Color or 2 Symmetry
Jan. 20	Abstracts Around the House Inside
Feb. 17	50 ft. from Home B&W Minimalism
Mar. 17	Shadows Photo NOT taken at Eye Level
April 21	Water Insects (Realistic)*
May 19	Town of Vienna (Realistic)* Faces in Nature

**\*Themes with Realistic designation** - Images submitted to these themes must have limited post processing so the realistic nature of the photo is enhanced/preserved:

Spot removal, contrast and level adjustments, conversion to monochrome, color and saturation adjustments are allowed. Focus stacking, HDR composites, stitched panoramas of the same scene are allowed. Combining multiple exposures of a changing scene are **not** allowed.

Minor cloning to remove extraneous elements (trash, telephone wires, etc.) is allowed. Cloning or other techniques that add, relocate, remove, or replace significant pictorial elements are **not** allowed. Techniques that add textures or other elements not appearing in the original scene may **not** be used.

### All Other Themes –

Do **not** have the above mentioned restrictions on post processing. The only post processing rule that applies is the All Images Rule: Images submitted to a competition must be taken by the person submitting the image. Significant pictorial elements or textures added to an image must also be created by the person submitting the image.

**Thank you to our first time contributor (and hopefully not last) Steven Dauterman!!**



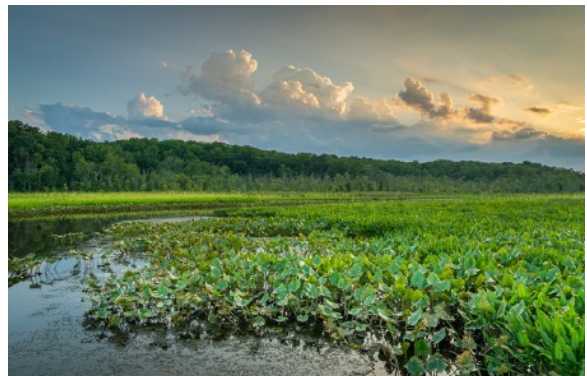
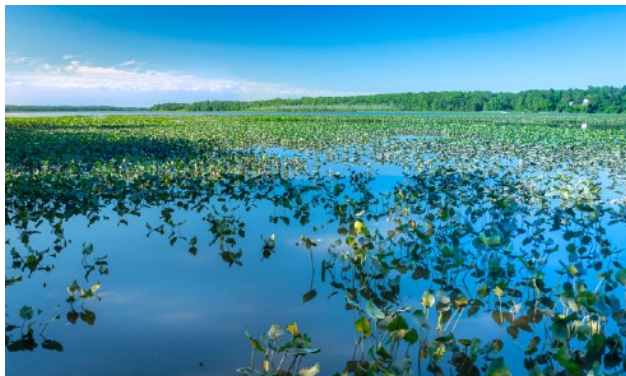
The first photo is “**Skyline**”, taken in mid-July in the big Meadows area of Shenandoah National Park.

The second photo is “**Hanabi**”, which is the Japanese word for firework. The photo was taken this July 4th, near Rosslyn, Virginia.

*Thank you Steven for sharing your photos! Personally, I love night time photos, and the milky way is high on my list of trying to capture a good one. And wow on the fireworks!! Nicely done!!*

**And a big shout out to Paul Laurenza for sharing his summertime photos!**

Paul took advantage of all the wonderful array of wetlands, marshes and general wet areas in the DMV area. The following were taken at Jug Bay (MD), Crow’s Nest (VA), Dyke Marsh (VA), and Algonkian Regional Park (VA).



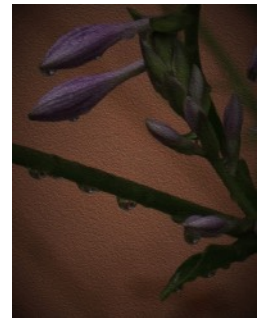


*Thank you Paul, I have never been to any of these areas and will definitely have to check them out. I love the clouds and light in your top photos!!!*

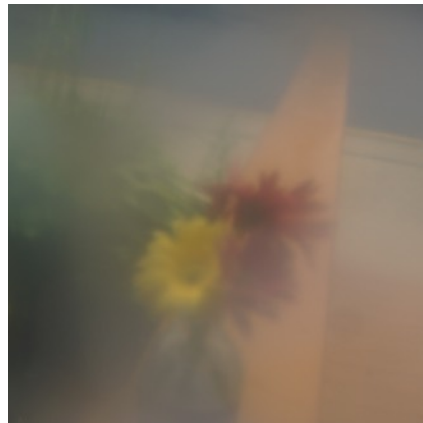
### **My Non-Summer Summer**

by Julie Cochran

I took a class through Capitol Photography Center. Lori Lankford instructor, entitled Creative Flower Photography. It was a four week class (one day per week, 2 hours per day and HOMEWORK) I learned how to be creative with water by freezing flower in distilled water. I learned how to shoot through things like bubble wrap, and lace. Also learned some Photoshop & Lightroom tips. I recommend this class . She will start another class in September.



I sold two prints through the Vienna Arts Society. The titles are **'Who Me'** and **'Blue Heron Takeoff'**. The other images were class homework.



*Woo Hoo!! Congratulations Julie on selling 2 of your prints!! That's outstanding and love to hear this news!!*

## OPN's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest

[https://www.osa-opn.org/home/photo\\_contest/?fbclid=IwAR0WX23PGu1q-krTMrT0MpGglByEoOI0jMVcZWtwRWxk1FkINynID019bA](https://www.osa-opn.org/home/photo_contest/?fbclid=IwAR0WX23PGu1q-krTMrT0MpGglByEoOI0jMVcZWtwRWxk1FkINynID019bA)

We're looking for large, high-impact images that highlight an aspect of optics. All images should be high resolution (at least 2,500 x 3,300 pixels at 72 dpi or 8.5" x 11" at 300 dpi) and the sole work of the submitter or submitters.

Please consider the following for your entries:

- A creative demonstration of an optical principle.
- Any use of optical equipment such as lasers, mirrors or fibers to create an abstract or artistic image.
- An image that is a close-up of a unique or unusual texture, such as a semiconductor chip.
- The use of microscopy to create a compelling image whose subject is not immediately recognizable, or one that looks like something other than what it is.
- A satellite image that captures an alien landscape, or a sweeping new view of one on Earth.
- A telescopic image of distant stars, galaxies, nebulae or other celestial bodies.
- A picture that captures atmospheric optics or optics in the natural world—for example, a rainbow, an aurora, the reflection off of a lake.

### The Alexia Grants

**The Alexia Grant competition will begin accepting applications on Sept. 14, 2020.**

**The deadline is Oct. 5, 2020.**

*The Alexia has for 30 years given grants to student and professional visual journalists to help them produce projects that inspire change by addressing topics that are socially significant.*

*We are changing the parameters and expectations for this year's competition, given how the pandemic is affecting those in the visual storytelling profession. We are reducing the entry fee from \$50 to \$20 and the grant money may be spent on whatever the recipient deems to be most necessary, as opposed to expecting it to go toward producing a proposed project.*

*Your submission may be to produce a proposed project, as in previous years, that touches any socially significant topic, especially climate change. We also encourage you to consider submitting work related to the two tragedies that have dramatically affected many lives this year in particular: the pandemic and all that has resulted from the killing of George Floyd. Our impression is that many people, especially students, have focused on producing work on these two topics this year and we want to recognize the importance and uniqueness of that work. These may be personal narratives or connect with the world outside your own.*

*The Alexia's mission is to support individual visual storytellers of all types; what storytellers address and what they say about life on the planet is more important than the genre chosen to address that topic. Your submission must include a set of still photographs; you may also submit other media expressed in varying story forms as part of your grant application submission. Other media may include audio, video, VR or any other visual format. There will be a spot on the submission site to post up to two links that present media other than still photos.*

Contact Mike Davis, The Alexia Director and a chaired faculty member at Syracuse University's Newhouse School, if you have questions: [mdavis@syr.edu](mailto:mdavis@syr.edu)

<https://www.alexiafoundation.org/grants>



### Bugs

By Wayne Wolfersberger

Did you know that all bugs are insects but not all insects are bugs? Insects have more species than any other group of animals and are subdivided into many major “orders” which is a term in the science of taxonomy. The true bugs are in the order Hemiptera. They are great subjects for macro photography. Like most insects they have the usual three body parts: head, thorax and abdomen. They have the usual two pair of wings attached to the thorax as well as the three pair of legs. Different orders are then grouped by the type of mouth parts and the development from egg to adult. Bugs begin as an egg and then grow and develop into adults in a series of molts, gradually developing the wings for flight as adults. The most interesting part of these guys is the mouth apparatus, which is designed for piercing and then sucking. It consist of a long tube of two parts. The larger tube is designed for cutting into plant or animal tissue. The smaller part, usually a part of the larger tube, works like a straw to suck up the fluids of the victim. The tissue was liquefied when the bug injected powerful enzymes.

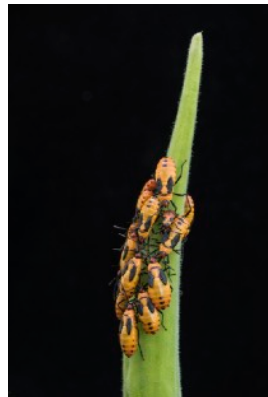


You all know about many of these more familiar bugs and most likely photographed many of them. Perhaps the stinkbug, squash bug, or maybe the water strider or even the assassin bug. The orange and black box elder bug may have invaded your home in the late fall looking for a place to over winter.



This year because of the pandemic, my travels have been to my yard and occasionally to a nearby park where I can photograph and be completely alone. I share my project to document the life of a single species of bug – the Large Milkweed Bug. They began to feed on my butterfly bush (related to milkweeds) with similar toxins. Thus they also advertise their harmful effect to potential predators, mimicking the monarch butterfly, with black and orange coloration. I was not concerned about the damage to the plant because they feed upon the seed pods only near the outside layer of seeds leaving most intact for seed dispersal.

The images reveal the tiny beginning of the first stage nymph about one mm in length to mating adults. In the photographs you can see the piercing sucking mouth parts, the larger piercing and the smaller sucking part. You can visualize the wing buds growing larger and some of the adults. All images taken out side with a macro 200mm lens and tripod. For many, I used a Cannon diopter screwed onto the macro lens. ISO 100 for many and no more than 800 on cloudy or windy days. Early morning was best because just after sunrise the air is usually quite still. When I had a busy background I would hold a piece of black velvet behind or an out of focus greenish mat photograph mounted on foam core. Most f stops were between 16 to 40.



*Thank you Wayne for a fascinating look into these insects!! And excellent photos of such tiny creatures!*



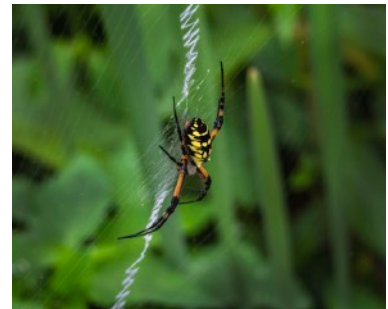
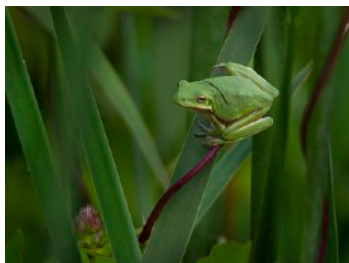
**Searching for Green Tree Frogs By Patricia Deege August 2020**

Recently I joined a group to photograph at Neabsco Creek Regional Park near Dale City. The ¼ mile boardwalk crosses a marshy wilderness which, if one looks closely, is filled with a myriad of fascinating wildlife. That day we were hunting for the little green tree frogs. They are tiny, mostly one inch long or less, and have sticky pads on their feet, similar to the poison dart frogs in South America, which enables them to cling onto very upright perches. At first they seem hard to find, until one’s eye becomes accustomed to their size, shape and coloring.

These frogs prefer cool shady places and tend to hide when the sun gets high. They live in urban areas, forests, woodlands, wetlands and heath. They also have a habit of taking up residence in and around suburban houses, in drain pipes, water tanks, letterboxes and apparently even in toilet bowls. We found dozens of them in many different poses and they obligingly sat very still for the camera. When one suddenly hopped away I was too surprised to catch the action.

There was also a host of different insects, a few butterflies and birds and even a snake. It was a great way to spend a morning with the camera; quite a lot of people but easy to practice social distancing and still find interesting subjects to photograph.

*Thank you Patricia, these are wonderful!  
You have a great eye for spotting these tiny insects and frogs!!*



# Congratulations to the EOY Winners 2019 - 2020!!!!

Judge – Jean-Pierre Ple

## **THEMES**

Themes for the VPS 2019 – 2020 year were Nature, Steps/Stairways, Geometry/Geometric shapes Digital Art, Faces/Portraits, doors, Through the Window, Abstracts, Peacefulness, Winter Digital Art, Interactions, Wild, Vivid Color!, Black & White, Silhouettes, City Life, Town of Vienna, Reflections in water Digital Art.

## **Image of the Year 2019-2020**

**Gary Perlow Beach Stream**



## **NOVICE**

HM – George Hogeman

3<sup>rd</sup> -- Carol Shoemaker

2<sup>nd</sup>-- Courtney Wilson

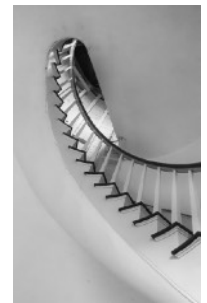
1<sup>st</sup>-- Barbara Johnson

Taj Mahal Morning

Opening Peoples Choice

Tree Reflection in Water

Illusion (railing with shadow)



## **ADVANCED**

HM

1. Lori Saunders

2. John Padbury

3. Bill Mugg

4. Patricia Deege

5. Lori Saunders

6. Bill Mugg

7. Marco Sainati

8. Lori Saunders

Dripping Ice

Winter Trees

Good Friends

Snow at Great Falls

Window Shadows

Irish Ferns

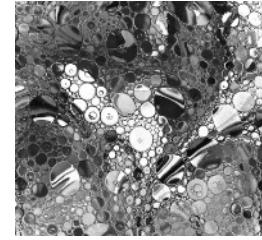
Sudan: I Don't Know These Fellas

Through the Curtain



- 9. David Kepley
- 10. Bill Mugg
- 11. Mary Rabadan
- 12. David Heagy
- 13. Gary Perlow
- 14. Lori Saunders
- 15. Paige Counts

- Moonrise
- Indian Relay Race
- Dizzy Circles
- Exchanging Views
- Rainy Night Portrait
- Going Down
- Brothers Walking in the Park
- Spiral Staircase



- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Paul Laurenza
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Gary Perlow
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Gary Perlow

- Listen to Me
- Dancers
- Beach Stream



**OPEN DIGITAL**

**NOVICE**

- Peoples Choice Carol Shoemaker
- 2<sup>nd</sup> George Hogeman Sultanate
- 1<sup>st</sup> Joseph Chiara

- Milkweed Pods
- Two Rose-ringed Parakeets at the Delhi
- Retired Hands

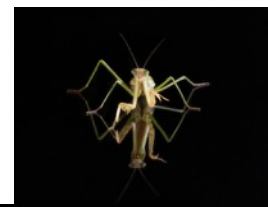


**ADVANCED**

**HM**

- 1. George Silvas
- 2. David Kepley
- 3. Bill Mugg
- 4. Paul Laurenza
- 5. Bill Mugg
- 6. Lori Saunders

- The Village
- Rings of Saturn
- I Love My Mom
- SR71
- Insect Geometry
- Virtual Study



3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Perlow

Devil's Bathtub

2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Laurenza

Innocence

1<sup>st</sup> Marco Sainati

Girl's Middle School, Khartoum, Sudan



**PRINTS**

HM Kathleen Furey

Moonflower

3<sup>rd</sup> Lori Saunders

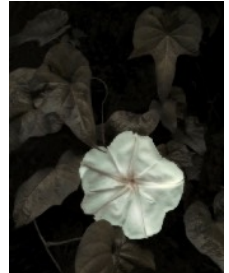
Bark Pattern

2<sup>nd</sup> Gloria Spellman

Flower Flutter

1<sup>st</sup> Kathy Swoboda

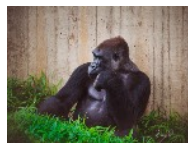
Red Wing Blackbird 2



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**What's Old is New. . . Update**

I did not have any submissions for this month but I did want to let you know that I did print out the photos from the last newsletter and they are around the house now. Do you print your photos?? Or do you leave them on the phone or computer??



Are you still reading. . .

I have nothing! It's 2am I'm going to bed . . .  
It's tomorrow and I still have nothing :/