FOCAL POINTS

VIENNA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

February/March Dates to Remember

February 26- VPS Forum - Critiquing several images from world renown photographers and then some of our own photos.

March 4 7:30-Presentation by Don Rosenberger - Rust and Ruins

March 11- PSA Interclub #3 - Competition entry starts

Enter PSA Nature, Open and Travel on the website under competitions

March 18- 7:30 - Competition night. Themes - Wild, Vivid Color! Black and White - Open digital and Open prints

March 22 PSA DEADLINE!! Nature, Open and Travel. Enter on the website, deadline is today at 11:59pm

March 25 7:30-9:30 VPS Forum

April 15 Theme Silhouettes, City Life

May 20 Town of Vienna, Refletions in water Digital Art

Don Rosenberger

On March 4th we are pleased to have Don Rosenberger speak at our club meeting. The topic will be Rust and Ruins. Many photographers hold a certain fascination with decay and ruination. Perhaps they are drawn to the abstract qualities of a corrosive surface or find beauty within the walls of a crumbling building. Today, urban exploration is a very popular activity, but it can be difficult to do it legally. Don will explore the risks and pitfalls of this type of photography as well as discuss how you can safely and legally add this type of photography to your portfolio. He will also explore why photographers are drawn to decrepitude and how to shoot this type of environment to get the results you desire. For more information regarding Don and his photography please visit his website at http://donrosenberger.com

March 18

Mary Ann Setton will be our competition judge.

Mary Ann is both a past VP for competitions and Past President of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society (NVPS). She is a 1995 graduate of the Washington School of Photography and ha augmented the training with many photography and Adobe Photoshop courses, including the famed Freeman Patterson's Photography and Visual Design Workshop in 2007. She worked as a professional photographer and videographer from 1997 to 2009 and for several years ran a portrait studio in her home. Experienced as a judge and critique leader, Mary Ann completed Joe Miller's Seminar on Judging in December 2006. You can contact Mary Ann at her email: MASetton@verizon.net

The Vienna Art Society Art of Kindness Project

Building on the community engagement momentum created last year's Bench Project, the Vienna Arts Society (VAS) will present a member art show/sale with the theme "Kindness" set for October 24 and 25 in the Vienna Community Center (VCC). We will seek public participation in the project by asking Vienna citizens of all ages to submit short descriptions/illustrations of acts of kindness they have experienced living in Vienna. These submissions, all anonymous, will then be hung in the large gym at VCC as part of the Art of Kindness show. A reception is tentatively scheduled for October 24 in the late afternoon.

VAS is also working to involve other Vienna art-related groups as performers and/or volunteers to raise awareness of the wealth of art resources in town.

•The Vienna Jammers have agreed to do a performance during the event.
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•We have asked the Vienna Photographic Society to use its VCC display space in October to present photographs with a kindness theme.

•We will not be charging an admission fee. Instead we will ask attendees to bring feminine product donations for the Vienna-based charity BRAWS and BRAWS members have offered to provide volunteers.
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•We are also asking other Vienna organizations to share information on kindness related initiatives so we can post it at the October event.

AUDUBON PHOTO EXHIBIT COMES TO HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK!

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia will display award-winning Photographs from the National Audubon Society's 2019 photo contest at an exhibition at Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) this winter.

It's a perfect fit, as this year's grand prize-winning photograph was shot at HMP. Local amateur photographer Kathrin Swoboda (Woo Hoo) took top honors for her photograph of a Red-winged Blackbird. The bird appeared to be blowing "smoke rings" as the rising sun backlit vapor that formed while the bird sang out on a cold day.

There will be 10 prize winning photographs on display at the Norma Hoffman Visitor's Center auditorium from Wednesday, March 4 through Wednesday, March 25, 2020. The exhibition will be open during regular visitor center hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, closed Tuesdays, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekends).

An opening reception co-sponsored by the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and Audubon Society of Northern Virginia will be held on Sunday, March 8 from 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Maybe we should get a group together and go support Kathrin!!!

Red-winged Blackbird. Photo: Kathrin Swoboda/Audubon Photography Awards

Photo Tips for Wildlife Trip

by Glenn Mai

As an avid wildlife photographer who has been on several photography wildlife trips with companies like Natural Habitat and National Geographic, I've learned some things which I hope will help others make the most of their next photo excursion.

Before the trip:

Do your research:

-Read through the trip materials provided by the tour company. Natural Habitat's "Pre-Departure Briefing" book is a great place to start. It contains photo equipment recommendations, an overview of the wildlife you may see on the trip, and a good basic guide to photography. Natural Habitat also has numerous "webinars" where guides will do a basic overview of their trip, show photos from the region, and answer questions.
-Do an Internet search on taking wildlife photos in the region or of the specific types of wildlife you are planning/hoping to see on your trip. There are some great articles with specific tips and tricks for different subjects. Natural Habitat has a site called "Good Nature Travel" that has a lot of information about specific trips. Prior to leaving for Brooks Falls trip I read an excellent article on NatHab's about photographing bears.
-Create a shot list. Look at photos from the region and of the animals that you hope to encounter on your trip. From there, come up with an "ideal" list of photos. My wish list of photos at Brooks Falls included:

○A shot of a bear catching a fish as it flew up over the falls (didn't get this one).
○A close up of a bear paw.
○A shot of a bear surrounded by silky water.

Communicate with the guide company:

-Contact the tour company if you have specific questions about equipment. Prior to leaving on the Wolves of Yellowstone Trip, I had numerous email exchanges with my Adventure Specialist at Natural Habitat about equipment, clothing, and weight restrictions. I learned that the guides often bring some of the equipment you need—a good opportunity to lighten your luggage. On my Yellowstone wolf trip, NatHab provided binoculars, bean bags, and spotting scopes.
-If you have specific photography goals, be sure to communicate them to NatHab's Adventure Specialists or Guides and they might be able to help you with equipment recommendations. On the Brooks Falls trip, I wanted to learn how to get a shot with bear standing in silky smooth water. I had an extensive email exchange with the photo guide about what kind of equipment I'd need for

this shot (tripod, remote shutter release, and an ND filter). Thanks to the advice of Justin Gibson (the photo guide), I was able to get the shots that I wanted.
-

Know and practice with your equipment:

-Practice your shots. If you want birds in flight, go to your local park and practice. You may only get one opportunity to get that picture as an eagle flies by on your trip. If you are shooting large mammals, go to a local zoo and practice on similar animals there. Remember most parks require that you stay at least 50 yards away from bears, bison, elk, and other large mammals, so practice photos at that distance. By the time your trip comes around you'll know what you camera can and can't do, and have an idea of what the ideal settings on your camera area.

-Check the weather where you are traveling to and practice taking photos in these less than ideal conditions. Prior to my Wolves of Yellowstone trip, I practiced shooting in the cold with the gloves I planned to take. Expecting rain on the Brooks Falls trip, I practiced putting on a rain cover on my camera and I took my camera gear out in wet weather at home and tried shooting photos in the rain.

-Get familiar with any new equipment that you've gotten for the trip. If you've bought a new tripod or filters for the camera, make sure you have a general idea of how to use them.

-Pack back-up equipment. These trips are expensive. Don't lose the opportunity for some great photos because you've run out of space on your memory cards, or because your camera battery died and you don't have a spare.

Photo 1: It was so cold in Yellowstone you could see the bison's breath as they wandered towards us. Preparing for the cold both in terms of clothing and camera equipment is essential for extreme weather trips.

<u>During the trip:</u>

Check your camera equipment and settings each morning . Make sure you have a fresh battery in the camera, and your lenses are clean. Also check the settings on your camera, since it's likely that light conditions have changed between yesterday's last shot and today.

Get Advice:

-The expedition guides are not only wildlife experts, but they are also photographers. They are great resources, happy to answer questions from: "What's this button on my camera do?" to "What settings would you recommend for getting a good picture of that bear/coyote/eagle?" My first question to Justin Gibson, our Brooks Falls guide, was: "What lens I should have on my camera and what settings should I start with?"
-Your fellow photographers can also be an excellent resource for advice. I have benefitted from the advice from many of my fellow travelers, who are happy to help out less experienced photographers.

Photo 2: I hadn't thought about getting a shot of a picture of a bear shaking water off until I spoke to our guide and one of the other travelers. I added "bear shaking water off" to my "shot list" and I got this picture on the second day of the trip.

Experiment:

−This is your chance not only to get the pictures on your "shot list", but also to learn something new about your camera equipment. Try new techniques with photography experts around to help you refine your technique.

−If you are new to photography:Try shooting in modes besides automatic – ask your photo guide about how to shoot in shutter priority and aperture priority modes.
−Try shooting in RAW format, or if you are not comfortable with this, shoot in RAW + JPEG mode so that you will have photos in both formats. Shooting in RAW will give you lots more room to "fix" pictures in post-processing.
○If you have some experience:
- ○Long exposures to get silky water effects.
- ○Using different filters (ND, graduated polarizers)
- ○Panning shots
- ○HDR pictures
- ○"Stitched" Panorama s- Shoot lots of pictures!

Photo 3: Shot at 1/8 of a second shutter speed. Getting a photo of a bear in "silky" water was on my "shot list" at Brooks Falls. Talking the technique through with Justin Gibson helped me get this shot.

- Shoot lots of pictures! Some of the newer cameras (like the Sony A9) will shoot 20 pictures in a second. Storage space on SD cards is cheap and plentiful, so don't miss a good picture because you are trying to "save space" on your memory card.

Photo 4: I took at least 500 pictures of these two bears waiting for a fish on the waterfall. This is the one that came out. In the other 499 shots, the fish were not jumping or the bears were looking the wrong way. Take lots of photos!

Review and backup your pictures each night:

- Check to see if you can cross a picture off your "shot list". This is your chance to refine / modify your thoughts on how to compose a better shot on the next day.
- If there are shots that you want to improve on, show the guides and other photographers your pictures and ask for suggestions on improving those shots.
- Sometimes the trips include a "portfolio review". This is a great way to learn how to improve your skills. If a review of photos is not on the schedule, ask the guides if they are willing to look at your photos for comments.

Also, don't forget to occasionally put down the camera and just appreciate the wildlife and the amazing places that you have travelled to.

<u>After the Trip:</u>

- Download, backup and process your photos, using programs such as Lightroom.
- Take some notes about what you've learned and how you would do things differently the next time.
- Finally, share your photos (and start planning your next trip)!

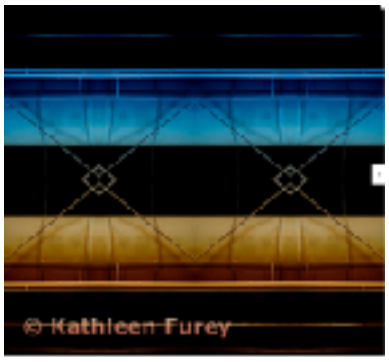
Thank you Glenn for such wonderful tips AND some pretty great photos as well!!

Congratulations to the January 22 Winners!!!!

Judge – Matthew Schmidt

Monthly Theme: Abstracts – 28 entries

1st Place	Kathleen Furey	Blue Meridian
2nd Place	David Kepley	The Vase
3rd Place	David Kepley	3D?
HM	Gary Perlow	42nd St. Abstract
HM	Bill Mugg	My Refrigerator
HM	Lori Saunders	Melting Colors
HM	George Silvas	Walk in the Woods



Monthly Theme: Peacefulness – 21 entries

1st Place	Gary Perlow	Sleeping Beauty
2nd Place	Bill Mugg	Contented in Fez
3rd Place	Kathleen Furey	At First Light
HM	Patricia Deege	Fig Relaxing in Her Tree
HM	Lori Saunders	Maroon Bells in Summer

Open Digital Novice – 0 Entries

Open Digital Advanced – 19 Entries

1st Place	Paul Laurenza	Innocence
2nd Place	Joseph Chiara	Retired Hands
3rd Place	Gary Perlow	Abandoned Bridge at Daybreak
HM	Gloria Spellman	Cheetah at Watering Hole
HM	John Padbury	Winding Staircase

Open Prints: Combined Novice & Advanced –8 Entries

1st Place	Kathleen Furey	Purple Water lily
2nd Place	Kathy Swoboda	Bluebird and Winterberry

Great photos everyone! A reminder: Please don't put your name or initials on your digital entries in the competition or in the title of the digital entry when downloading it for competition.

Types of Photography allowed at Government Facilities

First and most important, always check the website of the site you intend to photograph as many have their own photo guidelines (e.g., Library of Congress). (This is advisable for private institutions as well; many, including religious buildings, have restrictions.) Second, if the site does not have posted photo guidelines, or if the site refers you to the National Park Service or other federal site, check out their photo guidelines.

Generally, photography at most non-military federal sites, such as national monuments, is unrestricted for non-commercial photographers. I have never been questioned by the Park Police when doing hand-held photos, including at the Capitol. If, however, you want to use a tripod, it's always advisable to ask Park Police at the site if they will allow you to do so. (If you set up a tripod, they assume you are or may be a commercial photographer). If you're shooting as part of a group (e.g., Capital Photography, etc.), you can rely on the group to advise regarding whether tripod use is allowed or whether any other restrictions may apply. **Thank you Paul Laurenza for the above information!!**

Longwood Gardens

Robert Bills went to Longwood Gardens this week to see the orchids. He found out that you no longer have to get a tripod pass, but you still have to use their tripod rules.**Thanks Bob!!**

Photo - Barbara Johnson

Note from the Editor - Please feel free to email me articles you think others might be interested in. I am going to try and start entering the articles as I get them so that it will not take me so long to do the news letter each month.

Thanks!!!! Barb

Vienna Community Center Exhibition

Currently we have an exhibition at the Vienna Community Center. David Kepley was nice enough to send along some photos for those of us who have-not had a chance to go over and wander the halls! I have heard several photos have been sold - Congratulations!!!

Annual Photography Show - Vienna Community Center

Joan Axilbund has also sent out an article about the Annual Photography Show March 21-22 at the the Vienna Community Center. I have included it below.

The Town of Vienna is holding its annual photography show March 21-22 at the Vienna Community Center. It is for amateur adult photographers and for students in grades 7-12. VPS has always helped support the community center's staff in promoting and assisting in the event by helping to hang the entries Friday night and monitoring the event during the public showing Saturday and Sunday. It is also a great way for us to promote the club and find new members.
To volunteer to help with the show please send an email to me at jaxilbund@verizon.net. I will also be soliciting help at the meetings. Shifts are Friday night from 7 pm to 9pm to help hang pictures, Saturday 10 am-12:30 pm and 12:30 pm- 3pm and on Sunday from noon-2 pm and 2pm-4pm.
Information concerning entries and hours of the show and an application form are attached. The same information can be also found at https://www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5171 and https://www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5172.
So please volunteer to help with the show and ENTER your images The application is below.

2020 TOWN OF VIENNA PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW
RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION
ASSISTED BY VIENNA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Amateur Photographers Only

Entry Dates: March 19 – 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
March 20 –Noon – 3:45 p.m.
Submit work in person at the Vienna Community Center
120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna, VA 22180

Exhibit Dates: March 21 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
March 22 –Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Entry Fee: $10 per person. (Fee includes up to 3 photos per person.)
Two (2) photos per category

TOWN OF VIENNA
since 1890

CATEGORIES ARE:

ANIMAL
ARCHITECTURE – One or more man made structures or buildings (Boats are not considered architecture for the purpose of this category)
NATURE: Natural scenery that includes plants, trees, flowers and insects.
PICTORIAL: Any subject that does not fit into other categories. Example: works of art like a group of bottles.
PHOTOJOURNALISM: Story telling photos where activity is the main interest. (Can include street photos/cityscapes.)
PORTRAITURE: At least one person or persons face in the photo. This could also be a picture of a person, dramatic portrayal of a person with a person or persons being the main interest.
SCENIC: Natural scenery affording many beautiful views, marine scapes and landscapes; picturesque.

AWARDS

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention ribbons will be awarded. We reserve the right to withhold awards in categories where there are not a sufficient number of entries to judge and/or the photographic quality is not equal to the quality of other photos entered.
Special Award – Best in Show Ribbon and People's Choice Ribbon

STUDENTS

Students in grades 7-12 please print "STUDENT" next to the photographer's name on your entry form. Students will be judged separately from adult entries. **1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention** ribbons will be awarded.

PHOTO PICK UP- MARCH 22

Photo pick up is on March 22 between 3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Do not enter photos if you need to:

1. Pick them up prior to 3:15 p.m. on Sunday.
2. Can not pick them up at all on Sunday.
3. If you are unable to pick up your photos during that time, please make arrangements for someone else to collect your work.

- Bring your receipt and/or identification to pick up your work.

For further information call Amy-Jo Hendrix at 703-255-6357

PLEASE SEE THE REVERSE SIDE FOR RULES AND JUDGES COMMENTS.
RULES

1. Any subject matter, with the exception of nudes is acceptable. We reserve the right to exclude photos from the show that are deemed inappropriate.
2. Minimum **frame** size is 5" x 7"
3. Maximum **frame** size is 20" x 24"
4. **Photographs must be framed with wire for hanging firmly attached to the back. Photos that do not have wire for hanging will not be accepted. Wire must be fastened to the frame.**
5. **Photos that have wire or string taped to the back will not be accepted. Photos that are left without wiring will be removed from judging. THE TOWN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR FRAMES FALLING DUE TO BAD WIRING.**
6. Back of the photos must be labeled with photographers name, address, phone number, and category. Your ID will be assigned on the day you enter your photographs.
7. **All care will be exercised in the handling and exhibition of photos, but no responsibility will be assumed by the Town of Vienna for any losses or damage.**
8. Previously winning photos may not be re-entered.
9. Contest is open to amateur photographers only residing in the Washington Metropolitan Area.
10. **AMATEURS ONLY**. If the majority of your annual income comes from the sale of your work, you do not qualify for this show.
11. **PHOTOGRAPHERS WILL FORFEIT THEIR ENTRY TO NEXT YEARS SHOW IF ANY PHOTOS ARE PICKED UP PRIOR TO 3:15 P.M. ON SUNDAY.**

Judges Comments/Suggestions:

1- Please consider matting your photo. A professional presentation helps showcase the quality of your photo.
2- Pay attention to Cropping –
   - be sure there is not too much wasted space
   - be sure not to crop too close to the image
   - Look at the edges of your photo- is there anything sticking into the frame, interrupting the composition of the photo?
3- Sharpness is important. With out it your eye doesn't know where to focus. For animals and humans: be sure the eyes are in sharp focus.
4- Technique – Pay attention to the background – you want to put the subject in sharp focus but attention needs to made to the background as well.
5- Check lighting – some photos were shot with poor or flat lighting.
   - Watch for bright areas in the background of your photo.
   - White areas should have detail, should not be blown out.
   - Avoid hard lighting.
6- If you do your own processing watch out for dust spots.
7- Creativity helps! An unusual camera angle really grabs the judge's attention. Think about what will capture the judges eye and composition techniques. Think about photos from different perspective.
8- When photographing animals the harder the shot it is to get the more it catches the eye. Example: a dog captured in mid air.
9- Take something ordinary and make it extraordinary.
10- Not having color draws the eye to texture and elements.

TO HONE YOUR CRAFT JOIN A LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB SUCH AS THE VIENNA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

PHOTO CONTESTS TO CONSIDER!!

NAME/DEADLINE/WEB

AAA World (October) https://midatlantic.aaa.com/aaaworld/photo-contest

Air & Space magazine (November) https://www.airspacemag.com/category/photocontest/

Alexandria, City of (Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities) (October) https://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=99440

American Kennel Club's family dog photo contest (Jan. 31) http://www.akc.org/pubs/family-dog/photo-contest/

Anacostia Trails (Maryland) (Sept.) http://www.anacostiatrails.org/annual-photo-contest

Aperture magazine (Jan. 31) https://contest.picter.com/2020-aperture-portfolio-prize

Arizona Highways magazine (TBD) https://www.arizonahighways.com/photography/photo-contest

ArtSpaceHerndon Fine Arts Photography (Jan. and June) https://www.artspaceherndon.org/calls-for-art/

Audubon (April 9) https://www.audubon.org/news/enter-2020-audubon-photography-awards-north-americas-premier-bird-photo-contest

Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Save the Bay (March) http://www.cbf.org/events/photo-contest/official-rules-and-guidelines.html

Delaware Tourism photo contest (March) https://www.visitsoutherndelaware.com/southern-delaware-tourism-photo-contest

ExposedDC (January) http://exposeddc.com/past-winners/

Fairfax County's "First Hike Fairfax" photo contest (Jan.) https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/first-hike

Farm Credit Midatlantic "Life in the Country" photo contest (August) https://www.mafc.com/info/calendar-photo-contest/

Florida's Birding & Photo Fest (March) http://www.ffloridasbirdingandphotofest.com

FotoweekDC (TBD) http://www.fotodc.org/

Huntley Meadows, Friends of (November) http://www.fohmp.org/

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Friends of (TBD) http://www.kenaqgardens.org/events/photo-contest

Maryland Department of Natural Resources photo contest (August) http://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/photocontest.aspx

Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival: sheep photo contest (May) http://sheepandwool.org/festival/sheep-photo-contest/

Miller, Joseph abstract photography exhibit (Feb.) http://nvacc.org/home/abstract-exhibit/

Montgomery Magazine, Montgomery County, MD (October) http://www.montgomerymag.com/MM_2017Photocontest.html

National Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year (November) http://nationalgeographic.com/contests/National Parks: Share the Experience, National Park Foundation (December) https://www.sharetheexperience.org/

National Wildlife Federation (March) https://www.nwf.org/photocontest.aspx

Nature Conservancy (Spring) https://www.nature.org/photos-and-video/photography/photo-contest/index.htm

Nature Visions Photo Expo 2018 (September) http://naturevisions.org/

Nature's Best magazine Windland Smith Rice Awards (??) https://www.naturesbestphotography.com/enter_guidelines.php

Newport News tourism (Virginia) (October) https://www.newport-news.org/photo-contest/

Nikon Photo Contest (February) http://www.nikon-photocontest.com/en/

Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (TBD-Oct?) http://www.nvct.org/photocontest/

Ocean Conservancy's Marine Wildlife & Seascape photo contest (June) https://oceanconservancy.org/2017-marine-wildlife-seascape-photo-contest/

Olympus Photo Contest (?) https://olypress.com/enter-the-2019-calendar-photo-contest-now/

Orvis Catalogue Cover dog photo contest (March 31) http://www.orvis.com/s/welcome-to-the-orvis-cover-dog-photo-contest/6335

Outdoor Photographer magazine (several dates) https://www.outdoorphotographer.com/photo-contests/

Piedmont Environmental Council (September) https://www.pecva.org/about/get-involved/135-photo-contest/390

Popular Photography magazine (several dates) https://www.popphoto.com/contests

Rangefinder magazine (December) https://www.rangefinderonline.com/contests/

Smithsonian magazine (November) https://www.smithsonianmag.com/photocontest/

Sony World Photography Awards (Jan. 3) https://www.worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards

Vienna, Town of calendar (TBD) https://www.viennava.gov/

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries magazine (Feb.) http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/photo-contest/

Virginia Safari Park (August) http://www.virginiasafaripark.com/Events/SafariShots/2017SafariShots.aspx

Virginia State Parks Photo contest (Several) http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/blog/virginia-state-parks-first-day-hikes-2018

Virginia Zoo, Norfolk (TBD) http://virginiazoo.org/photo-contest/

Virginia: "Scenic Virginia" conservation association (May) https://scenicvirginia.org/category/thelatest/

Virginia: Virginia's Soil & Water Conservation Districts (August 15) http://vaswcd.org/photocontest

Washington Post travel photo contest (July) Google Washington Post Photo Contest

Zeiss photography award (Feb.) https://www.worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards/2018/zeiss