



Vol. 01-17, January, 2017

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VPS is a member of



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

VPS meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays, September through June at Oakton Elementary. Please check VPS's calendar for venue/date changes at: <http://www.vpsva.org>

FOCAL POINTS

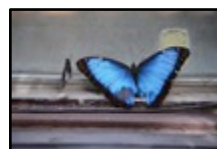
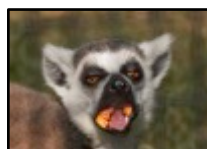
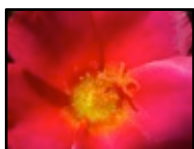
Vienna Photographic Society

PO Box 1212, Vienna, VA 22183-1212, VPSVA.org

Psssssst! Need a Fix?

Hey, nature photography junkie: Winter got you down? Need a fix? Escape our frigid, lifeless, colorless winter to warm, green "tropics" right in the DMV and discover sweet-smelling flowers that bloom *outdoors* even on the coldest days. Here are some **indoor oases** to warm your body, soothe your artistic soul, and provide colorful critters and fanciful flowers to star in your photos until spring. Meanwhile, if you're counting the nano-seconds until March 20, remember that since Dec. 21, the days *already* started growing longer.

- Barbara J. Saffir



Brookside Gardens: conservatory and outdoor gardens

1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, MD; 301-962-1400; <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/>

Dumbarton Oaks collections/garden: petite orangery & outdoor gardens

1703 32 St., NW, DC; 202-339-6401; <http://www.doaks.org/>

Green Spring Gardens: small greenhouse and outdoor gardens

4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria, VA; 703-642-5173; <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/>

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens: small greenhouse and outdoor gardens

9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct., Vienna, VA; 703-255-3631; <https://www.novaparks.com/>

Merrifield Garden Center: small greenhouse

12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA; 703-968-9600; <https://www.merrifieldgardencenter.com/>

National Aquarium: "Rain Forest," fantastic fish exhibits, and immersion tours

501 E. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD; 410-576-3800; <http://aqua.org/>

Organization of American States: multi-story, tree-filled atrium

17 Street, NW & Constitution Ave., DC; 202-370-5000; http://www.oas.org/en/about/our_locations.asp

Rawlings Conservatory & Botanic Gardens: glass conservatory and park

3100 Swann Dr., Baltimore, MD; 410-396-0008; <http://www.rawlingsconservatory.org/>

Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History: Live Butterfly Pavilion

10 Street & Constitution Avenue, NW, DC; 202-633-1000, <http://naturalhistory.si.edu/butterflies/>

Smithsonian's National Zoo: Animals/birds and Amazonia's indoor rain forest

3001 Connecticut Ave., NW, DC; 202-633-4888; <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/>

US Botanic Garden: Soaring greenhouse and winter programs.

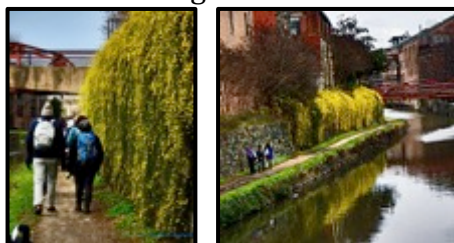
245 First St., SW, DC; 202-225-8333; <https://www.usbg.gov/>

US National Arboretum: Bonsai museum & outdoor winter-blooming flowers

3501 New York Ave., NE, DC; 202-245-2726; <http://www.usna.usda.gov/>

Frigid Flower Fireworks

Flowers blooming *outside* in the winter around DC? Yep. Skunk cabbage, common snowdrops, Lenten roses, winter jasmine, mahonia, witch hazel, camellias, and some of the sweetest smelling flowers on the planet: sweetbox and wintersweet. The forsythia-like sunshine yellow jasmine vines brighten Fairfax City Hall on Chain Bridge Road and along the C&O Canal in Georgetown.



Winter-white snowdrops and pink, purple, and ivory Lenten roses (hellebores) bloom outdoors at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. These hardy hellebores also glow at Green Spring Gardens and grace part of the popular trail linking Burke Lake to South Run Rec Center. Clusters of these yellow mahonia flowers nourished a [wayward rufous hummingbird that stuck around all winter at Green Spring three years ago.](#)

Sweetbox, wintersweet, and other intoxicating flowers bloom outdoors at the National Arboretum. You can't miss the green shoots of Virginia's earliest blooming wildflower along creeks. Skunk Cabbage is often the only green in an ocean of khaki, black, brown, and gray during January and February. If you're the curious sort, bend down for a waft to see how it got its name. Skunk cabbage grows naturally. The others have to be planted. Hey, that's an idea. Plant these flowers in your own backyard and you don't even have to get in your car. Then, invite us over to photograph them!



Camellia:

<http://www.southernliving.com/home-garden/gardens/camellias>



Hellebore (Lenten Rose):

<https://www.meadowsfarms.com/Lawn-Garden-Care/Plant-Listings/Perennial-Flowers/Helleborus.aspx>



Mahonia:

http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=MAAQ2



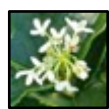
Skunk cabbage:

<http://vnps.org/wildflowers-of-the-year/2009-skunk-cabbage-symplocarpus-foetidus/>



Snowdrop:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=k300>



Sweetbox:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/shrubs/hgic1092.html>



Winter Jasmine:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a152>



Wintersweet:

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/faqs/WinterInterests.html>



Witch Hazel:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/our-garden/notable-plant-collections/witch-hazel.aspx>

Jan. 4 Speaker: Corey Hilz

Professional photographer Corey Hilz specializes in nature and travel



photography. He finds the diversity in nature and cultures around the world offer boundless opportunities for new images. Corey approaches his subjects with an artistic eye, looking for a fresh perspective. He goes beyond the documentary image to show a unique perspective using color, shape and line. He strives to share the beauty of a destination you've never seen and provide a new perspective on a familiar subject. While Corey has collected diverse images from extensive travel, he also finds some of the most interesting subjects close to home.

Corey is a published author and his work is seen in magazines, books, calendars, and catalogs. His photographs are also seen in exhibits and his prints are found in private collections. Corey has written six books, including two books on digital workflow and the first book dedicated to Lensbaby. He has a passion for sharing his knowledge. Corey helps others improve their photography through group and private instruction. His instruction enables photographers to improve their photographs technically and artistically. He leads workshops to locations in the United States and abroad, plus offers photography classes and software training.

***** Change of Meeting Venue! *****

On Jan. 4, VPS will meet at the newly renovated Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Room B-114, Eagle Hall, Vienna. (Use side entrance.) After the meeting, members will vote by email about moving back to Thoreau or staying at Oakton Elementary. Thoreau reportedly has more comfortable seats and a better setup for viewing photos.

Jan. 18 Judge: Jim Steele



Photographer Jim Steele works primarily in the tradition of masters Ansel Adams and Edward Weston using both medium and large format film cameras in his photography but recently has included digital cameras as well. Steele grew up in a small farming community in

Missouri, WI, with an interest in photography that started around the age of 12, which necessitated using his mother's baking dishes for developing and processing of his film. Today, his "scapes" of Land, Sea, and Body represent the finest of both traditional and digital photography. Steele has studied with distinguished mentors, such as Cole Weston, George Tice, Joyce Tenneson, Christopher James, and others. In addition to film, he uses digital equipment including both Nikon and Canon cameras as well as digital printers from both Canon and HP. His ongoing interest in photography has led him to teach both classes and workshops around the area, including classes on digital printing. He has taught at The Art League School in Alexandria, the Smithsonian VIS-ARTS program in Washington DC, and PhotoWorks in Glen Echo, MD. He has also guest-lectured at Georgetown University. Steele's work can be seen at Studio 343 in the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, VA, and on his website:

<http://www.PhotographyBySteele.com>.

Jan. 25: Mini-seminars Forum

Club members will give tutorials on creating abstracts, focus stacking, and close-up photography. These topics were selected by polling the membership. A request for speakers was sent to members in late December. All are welcome.

- Mort Friedman, VP Forums

Jan. 18 Themes

Textures:

With texture photography, it's all about patterns, colors, and depth. Every detail of a texture plays a significant role in the overall perception of the photograph. Texture itself can become the subject in a photograph or it can provide a description of how something might feel. Normally, we describe texture by how something feels to our sense of touch but in a photograph the texture has to appear to leap out and appear as if one could touch it. Strong textures make the subject in an image stand out. Look for light raking across the surface of an object to highlight the textural details.

Bridges:

Bridge photography is a favorite subject for travel and landscape photographers alike. For bridge and landscape shots you'll often be recording a long exposure, so to capture sharp shots your camera needs to be perfectly stable. Use a sturdy tripod, and keep it as low to the ground as possible. The best times of day to shoot bridges are during the 'golden hours' around sunrise and sunset. The quality of the light during these times can change quickly and dramatically, so be sure to take plenty of shots. Images shot during the golden hours work well in both color and mono. Color is great for showing off a dramatic sunrise or sunset, while mono can add moodiness and atmosphere to shots. And if a bridge is backlit by a bright and colorful sky, try turning it into a dramatic silhouette.

January Field Trip

Jan. 15 and 16 are two possible dates for a field trip to the U.S. Botanic Garden. For details, please contact Lori Saunders.
loriasaunders@gmail.com 703-980-7475

PSA Report

PSA Travel: VPS in 5th Place After Round 1. Images by **Joan Axilbund, David Heagy, Mort Friedman, Bill Mugg, Ceasar Sharper,** and **Kathy Swoboda** scored a total of 68 points, coming in 5th place out of 20 clubs in the recent judging at Cape Cod View Finders in Harwich, MA. **Kathy Swoboda** received honorable for "London Twilight." Next entry for Travel will be in mid-January.

PSA Open (Projected Image Division): VPS Earns 4th place in Round 1 Competition. Images by **Mort Friedman, Alana Graves, David Heagy, Barbara Johnson, Ceasar Sharper** and **Kathy Swoboda** represented VPS at a judging by Kitsap Photographic Guild in Harwich, Massachusetts. **Kathy Swoboda** won an award for "Tricolored Heron, Beak Down." VPS came in a very strong 4th place out of 32 clubs.

For results, scores, and images, visit <https://www.vpsva.org> and click on "PSA News" and "PSA Winners." For more information on PSA, visit <https://psa-photo.org/>. - **Kathy Swoboda, PSA Representative**

PSA Open (Projected Image Division): Images Selected for Round 2:

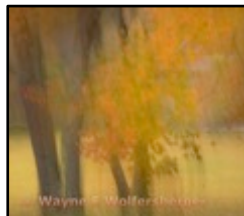
"Dancer in Silhouette"
- **Gloria Spellman**



"Eastern Bluebird Pair"
- **Kathy Swoboda**



"Fall Foliage"
- **Wayne Wolfersberger**



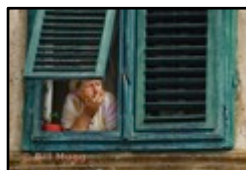
"Storm's Coming!"
- **David Kepley**



"Turkish Mosque"
- **Mary Jane Fish**



"Woman in the Window"
- **Bill Mugg**

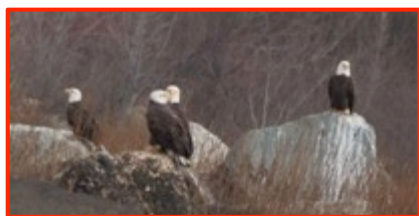


Dec. 3 Field Trip Report:

Bald Eagles at Conowingo Dam

Seven VPS members zipped up I-95 to photograph scores of juvenile and adult Bald Eagles at the Conowingo Dam in Darlington, MD. Though we lacked perfect conditions—it was a tad windy and not as sunny as predicted—we had a good time and nabbed some memorable images. Here are comments from some of the day trippers. -BJS

Barbara Saffir: Noisy, noisy, *NOISY* -- but a *good* noise like your favorite rock star, *not* like chalk scraping across a blackboard. I never heard so many eagles vocalizing so loudly for so long. That's what hit me most during my 6th or so trek to Conowingo. Usually you're lucky if you hear even one high-pitched call. But we heard so many of the



first-year to adult eagles all day long from the dam down along the Susquehanna River trail. "Scram! Get the

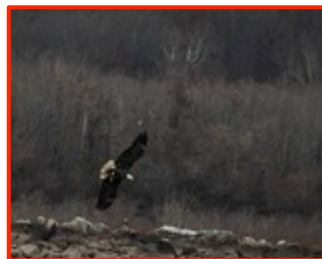
heck away from my fish!" one seemed to scream. Another cried: "I'm lonely. Where are you, mom? *Please* come here." And I'm pretty darned sure I heard one squeal: "Look at me, Barbara! Photograph me!" Who knows what they were really saying, but they were fun to watch, photograph, and hear. We saw dozens of the brawny birds huddled together on the boulders, lined up on the dam, and snatching fish out of the Susquehanna River with their laser-sharp talons. One veteran photographer estimated that there were about 100 there. Although many eagles flee by late December to hook up with their lifelong mates in their own hometowns, there will still be plenty to photograph if you visit in January. Just bring a long lens, hot chocolate, and patience. Before you go, glance at this guide to see what first-year to adult eagles look like, which makes photographing the iconic critters much more fun:

<http://www.featheredphotography.com/blog/2013/01/27/a-guide-to-aging-bald-eagles/>

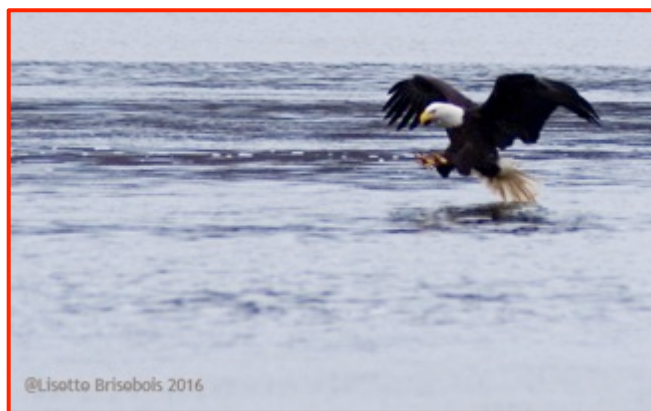
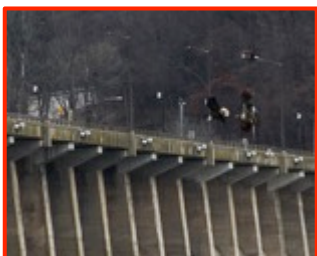
Kathy Swoboda: It was a cold and cloudy morning at Conowingo Dam. I got there early and lucked out as an eagle plucked up a fish right in front of me! It was exciting to see so many photographers in one place. When an eagle started to fly in, someone would call out a warning so we could get our cameras ready. I went another day but saw no action at all.



Janet Gelb: I've only seen an isolated eagle now and then. So to see at least 50 or more at the Conowingo Dam gave me a huge smile! I was only equipped with a 70-300mm lens from my Nikon film camera (worked with my digital

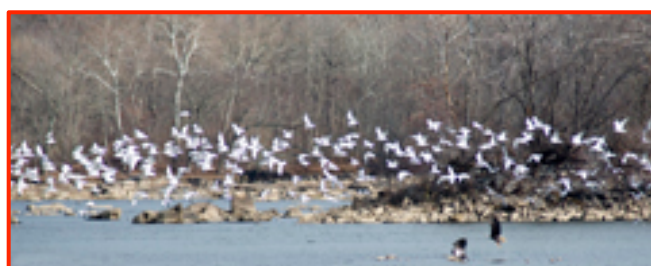


camera but I had to focus manually), and a not very tall tripod (my knees were not happy crouching most of the time) to try to take pictures of these awe-inspiring creatures. So my photos are less than spectacular. But it was so cool to see them dive and soaring solo, and sometimes in groups of 4 and 5! We also encountered large flocks of seagulls as we hiked down the river from the dam. They looked like land masses as they congregated on sandbars. Then something would startle them and they would fly up all at once creating a white cloud of wings! It was a great trip.



Barbara, Janet, and I decided to try the hike along the river. I just wasn't expecting a posse on horseback to share the trail with us, which they did. Then we ran into a Swedish family, which was a nice surprise. The father was generous in encouraging us to look at one of the bald eagles with his scope. We actually got better close looks at bald eagles along the trail. We also saw beautiful flights of gulls over the water. We wrapped up our visit to the dam when we were lead astray by a shared rumor of a water release at the dam. All in all the Conowingo Dam turned out to be a highlight of my year from both a bird and photograph point of view and I look forward to my return. Kudos to Barbara for organizing the field trip.

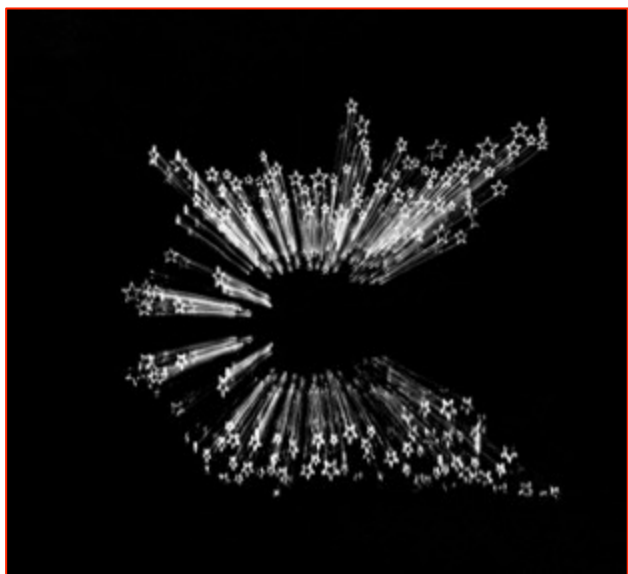
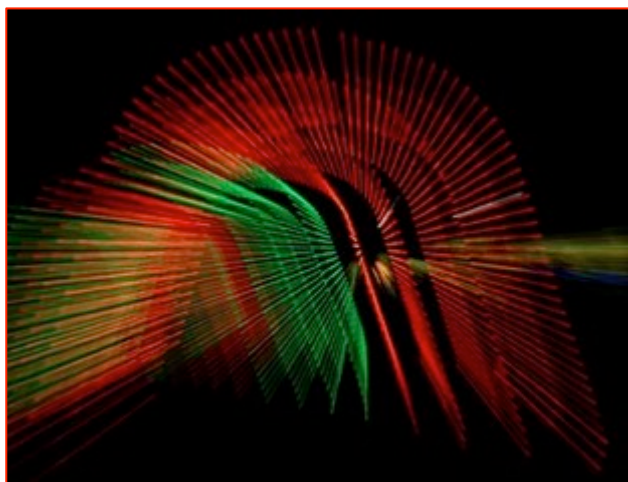
Lisette Brisebois: I had no expectations on that gray morning when we arrived at the Conowingo Dam after a long journey. As Barbara led us toward the dam we heard a very odd high chattering. She explained that it was the eagles vocalizing and that she had never heard them so very vocal. It was eerie and drew us into the place until we slammed into more photographers and equipment than I thought possible. I carefully hid my punk lens in the palm of my hand and waved my binoculars around. Positioning ourselves on the edge of the water we found Kathy who had been there for some time. She graciously explained techniques she was using to photograph the bald eagles, cormorants, great blue herons, and other birds. We quickly discovered that any exciting avian events were accompanied by the clicking of camera lenses which did not seem to disturb the birds. After some time with one breathtaking interaction when two bald eagles briefly gripped each other in their claws.



Dec. 13 Field Trip Report:

Meadowlark Gardens' Holiday Lights

Lori Saunders: VPS members beat the crowds at Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights because we were granted early access. I met up with Patricia Deege, John Nye, Barb Johnson, Janet Gelb, and David Kepley at the entrance around 4:45 pm. Then we scattered down the paths pretty quickly. We all brought tripods for the long exposures needed - several of us also had fun experimenting with "zooming" lens during long exposures to make more abstract images. Although the day had been very cloudy, it was not too cold and the clouds even cleared to show the full moon before it got too late. If you did not make the field trip, the lights are open through Jan. 8. See VPS's Flickr [site](#) for more photos.



Patricia Deege: It was a cloudy night with balmy temperatures for the time of year. We arrived early to take advantage of the light show in twilight, which also had the added advantage of few people. It was thus easier to find vistas without anyone in front of the lighted sets. The fountains this year were particularly beautiful, as was the walk leading away from the visitor center, with its large colored balls. The gazebo was beautifully reflected in the lake and there were some interesting scenes such as the beehive with buzzing insects and the pair of skaters with scarf and skirt flying. After a while, the clouds parted and the moon showed her face briefly, lighting the scene with an unearthly glow.



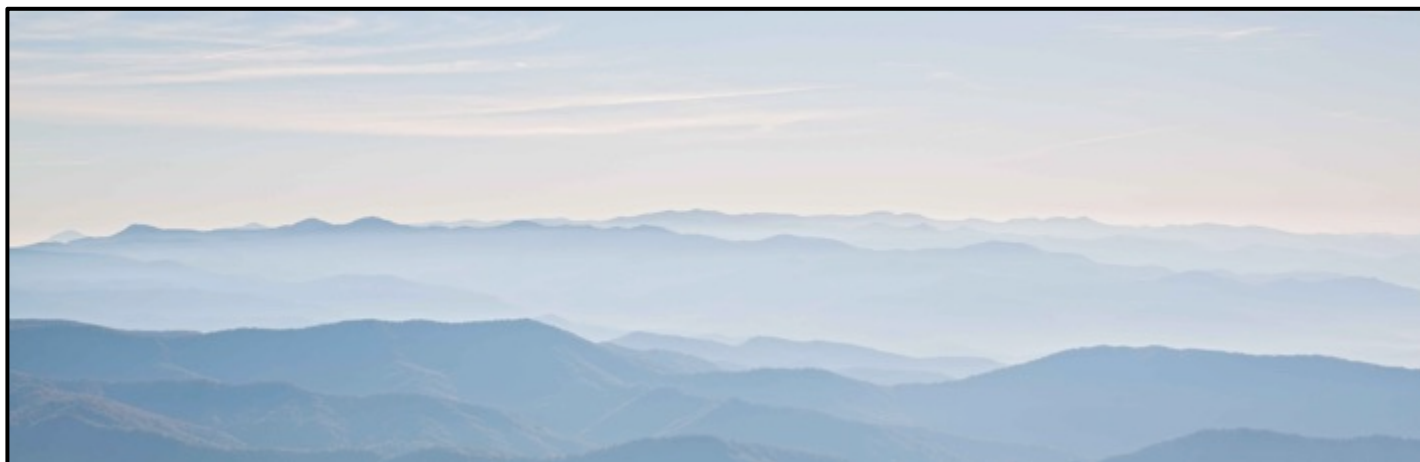
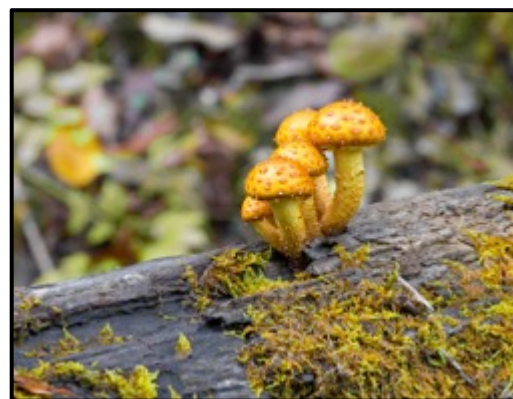
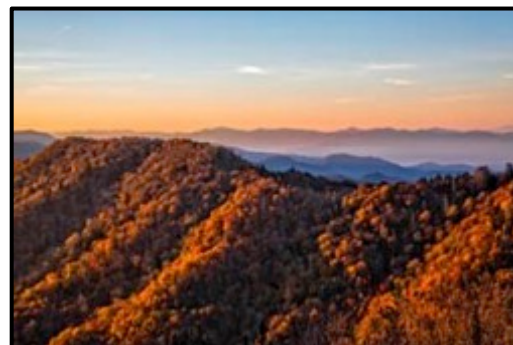
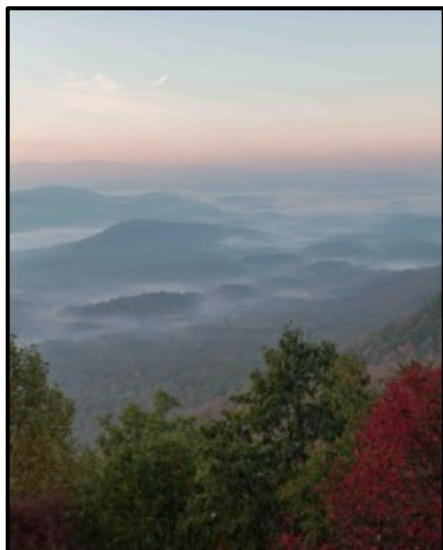
Smoky Mountain High

By Paige Counts

I attended the Second Annual [Great Smoky Mountains Photography Summit](#) in October with fellow member, Barbara Johnson, and I would highly recommend it if you're interested in landscape photography. I once heard Scott Kelby of Kelby One say something like "If you want to take more beautiful pictures, stand in front of more beautiful places" or something to that effect. The Great Smoky Mountains has that covered!

The summit was held at the Tremont Lodge and Resort in Townsend, TN, a quiet little town about 30 minutes from the Knoxville airport. "Resort" may be a stretch but the rooms were clean and the overall facilities quite nice. The summit had two facets: there were classes held on the grounds of the lodge and there were guided field trips to a variety of locations within the Smoky Mountain National Park. The field trips were for small

groups led by an instructor. The instructor whose name made me sign up was Matt Kloskowski, formerly of OnOne. To my delight, the other instructors were just terrific, too. (Perhaps my favorites were RC Concepcion and Ken Jenkins.) Bottom line, there was a lot of talent there and they were all very willing to share their vast knowledge. If you would like to get on the mailing list for next year, the contact person is April Love (april@f32photo.com).





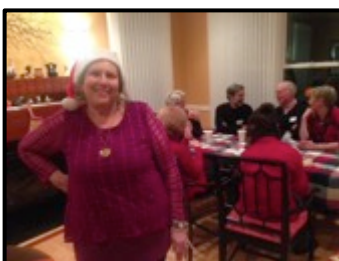
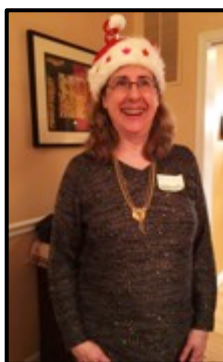
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Happy holidays to us! VPS members celebrated with a festive holiday party at **John and Rosie Naman's** exquisitely decorated house on Dec. 10. We noshed on turkey, ham, meatballs, cheese, veggies, side dishes galore, and yummy desserts like dreamy cream puffs.

And, of course, we held our traditional photo contest. Contestants submitted 4x6 photos that best depicted "Joy." **Loma Mier** won first prize (a \$20 gift certificate to Coyote Grille) with her pic of a black and white dog hanging out a car window on his joy ride. **Gwen Bowden** took second place with a photograph of her sister's grandson frolicking in the surf, and **David Heagy** nabbed third prize with a little girl hugging her stuffed animal. The second and third prizes were chocolate and cookies.

Long-time members **Mary Jane and Martin Fish** enjoyed their last VPS holiday party as Vienna residents. In January, they're moving to Chattanooga, TN. Mary Jane was presented with a gift certificate as a token of appreciation. Martin was honored with the Pat MacVeagh award for his invaluable contributions to VPS. The award is named for VPS charter member MacVeagh, who died in 2014.



Keep in Touch!

Dear VPS Members,

Martin and I want to thank all of you for the generous gift you gave us at the Holiday Party. The fact that you honored us was a surprise and greatly appreciated. We will cherish your friendships and hope that they continue for many years to come. We would like to meet up with a group of you for a field trip somewhere between Northern Virginia and Eastern Tennessee. The Smokies would be the perfect place except for the recent fires.



Over the years I have had the privilege of serving VPS as VP of Judges, Field Trip Coordinator, Nature Visions Rep and Backup, President, and Newsletter Editor. I feel that I have come to know you all better because of these offices. I only wish that each of you will take the opportunity to support VPS by stepping up in a supporting role. You will find it very rewarding and a great way to get to know the members better. Martin has also held the office of President, Nature Visions Rep, and Tech Support for the club.

Since we are members at least until July 1, we will be keeping in touch through the newsletter, competitions, and PSA competitions. Our hope is that VPS continue to grow and thrive in the coming years. We might make it back for Nature Visions next year – you never know.

Keep in touch and if you are ever in the Chattanooga area, look us up. Our new address as of the end of January, 2017 will be 4465 Turkey Ridge Trail, Ooltewah, TN 37363.

Fondly,

Martin and Mary Jane Fish

Preteen Photo Shoot

By John Sichenze

For some time I have been thinking how nice it would to give some children a camera and bring them to a place where they could photograph to their hearts' content. I finally did it. I gave them each a DSLR, which was the first time they handled a camera of that size. Also, they could photograph anything that interested them. (Originally, my thought was a publication, seeing from the eyes of children.)

In September I took my two grandsons and a neighbor girl to Meadowlark Gardens and let them go. I picked Meadowlark because of its location as well as for a safety factor. It no easy chore for an 86 year old to keep track of three preteens. I did it again in November but just with the boys.



It was interesting to note the different tastes of each. Most of their work was landscape and some focused on single items. Of course there were photos of the participants. In the end I gave each a DVD with all the photos taken as well as each participant received a DVD of his/her photos. This way the parents could see that which we did.

I did this for another reason. The consumer camera industry is failing. That which will remain is the professional equipment. If we are to maintain an active photographic environment we must get the youth involved in more than their I-Phones. People are no longer making prints. That was the reason Costco increased the price of their 4X6 prints. Everything is on computers or cell phones. We even changed from print submissions to digital. Granted, we do provide for prints but they are a few each month.



Wildflower Pilgrimage

By Robert J. Bills



It's *never* too early to think about spring! So plan now for the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in Gatlinburg, TN, from April 11-15, 2017. Last year we went and fell in love with all the flowers and wildlife. There are classes that you can take with photographers or go out with flower tour guides who will show you where the flowers are and give you their names.

We went with mostly the wildflowers tour guides. From the wildflower tour guides we learned where there are several good trails to see and photograph wildflowers. The photo guides are good, but they mostly use the same wildflower trail that is near the

visitor center where they have a show and tell program. Plus we met a couple who was hiking in the area and gave us a

great tip where to photograph wildflowers. The trail was wonderful. The area is hilly, but some trails are not as hilly.

The wildflower guides walk very slow. This makes it easy to keep up with them. There are lots of hotels to stay at in that area. We like the Gillette Motel. It is right across from the Conference Center where the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage is held for signing up for class or tours. Also the motel last year was very close to where a lot of the events were being conducted. Because of the wildfires in the Gatlinburg area, some trails may be closed in 2017. If you want to go, be sure to visit:

<http://www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org>



Middleburg Christmas Parade

By Patricia Deege

Every year on the first weekend in December, Middleburg holds its annual Christmas Parade featuring the local huntsmen, pack of hounds, and a parade of floats, dogs, horses, police officers, etc. This year it dawned a beautiful, early winter day and the town was mobbed with huge crowds.

Something new for 2016, the main street had been barricaded off on both sides to keep the spectators from entering the street during the parades. This was no doubt practical, but prevented any possibility of good photographs from the sidelines; too many people, and too much commotion to even attempt it. Fellow VPS member Kathleen Furey and I had gone early to avoid the inevitable traffic, arriving before 9 am. With time to spare before the first parade at 11 am, we visited the stables and watched the participants preparing their horses, and spent some time at the truck containing the pack of hounds. The dogs were very vocal in their eagerness to get out and were constantly poking noses and paws out of the open slats in the side of the vehicle. We would have liked to stay and watch as the pack were let out—probably a literal waterfall of canine bodies—but that would have meant missing the preliminary ride of the huntsmen and hounds, so we returned to park in the town and found a spot on the road behind the tavern where the horses and dogs gather before the parade.

It seemed to be an endless stream of mounted riders, more than I remember in previous years, and the hounds were happily following the hunt master. Inside the tavern yard, chaos reigned, with skittish horses, photographers vying for position, and wayward hounds trying to escape the control of the huntsmen to greet the visitors. One hound, in particular, I think his name was Winston, was very good at sneaking away, only to be soundly scolded and urged back into the pack. It was great fun to watch all the activity and photograph some of the interesting scenes. One can only have so many dog pictures, so I started to record the many and varied styles of headgear among the spectators. Since it was a cold day, there were a lot of different woolly hats!

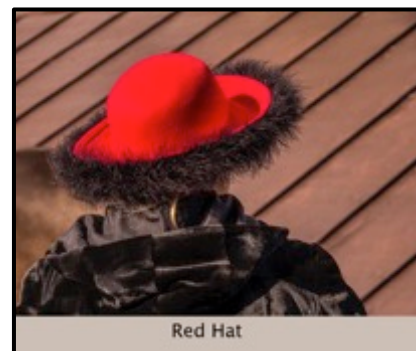
Afterwards, we lunched in one of the many sidewalk cafes and enjoyed an hour or so sitting in the sun and chatting with other parade goers. If you go next year, plan to go early and perhaps stake out a place on the rails with a chair.



Hunt is Arriving



Hounds are Eager



Red Hat



Braided Tail

Jekyll Island's Driftwood Beach

By Robert J. Bills

Over the 4th of July weekend, Annette Shinafelt and I made a mad dash down to Fort Myers, FL to drop off a used car for her nephew. Doing a convoy with two cars to Florida was a challenge, but rewarding as well. We only had time to do some tourist type photography, but it was worth it. It gave us a break from the constant driving. After dropping off the car for her nephew. We wanted to take our time coming back.

On the way back we stopped at a couple of tourist sites and took photos, plus we learned some neat historical story's about our country. Once we got to Georgia. We went to Jekyll Island. In the afternoon we went to the beach that had



dead trees. I have seen photos of the Jekyll Island trees. Thought they were nice photos, and never thought anything more about them -- until I saw them in person. Then I had a better appreciation of them. Now I understand why people went there to photograph them. A lot of these dead trees are really huge. To understand the size you need something or a person in the photo. We may not have been there for the right time of day. We still had a blast photographing the trees and the people. There is one tree we nicknamed the Wedding Tree. There was a wedding photographer taking photos of the barefoot grooms in the tree and with the bridesmaid and groom and bride at the base of the tree. Annette and I would love to go back when we get a chance to do more photography. If you get the chance to go, I believe you will have fun shooting at Jekyll Island as well.

Tip: Check when the high and low tides are coming in. We visited at low tide.

Side note: I was watching the television series called the "Walking Dead." It had the wedding tree as the main back drop, plus some other places we shot on Jekyll Island.

If It's Not Moving, It's Not Worth Shooting

By Michael C (VidGuy069)



The tree is up, shopping is done, well at least the shopping I intend to do is done, personally I am ready for holidays. What is there left to do? Oh well how about doing some writing. What kind of writing you ask? Well since it is for a newsletter it has to be family-friendly. Since this is for a photo-centric audience I should probably write about taking pictures/ creating images. There's just one small problem, I don't do images. I do VIDEO. Video and still images a lot in common. After all, what is video but a series of still images viewed very quickly and in sequence. When shooting video you have the some of the same concerns as you do stills. There is the subject, composition, lighting, and all that other stuff. Although with video the concern about blurry images is only slightly lower.. Partly due to the fact that at 60 frames per second, in about 3 seconds of shooting there is bound to be a clear frame somewhere.

I know what you're thinking. Why use a video specific camera? DSLR can shoot video as well. True but, as far as I know DSLRs do not have power zoom capabilities. In other words you can't push a button on the camera and how the lense zoom. I'm sure that technology will be coming soon but as of this writing I don't know of a camera that can do that. Yes still cameras can shoot video video cameras can shoot stills, although video 'stills' are not as good as still camera stills. It is of my highly biased opinion that someone can take a mediocre picture and turn it into a first-place winning image just because they happen to be good or great at the digital manipulation. (Translation good at Photoshop) The same can be said for videos. Mediocre at best videos, but if you are competent in the software you use it can be a great video.

Like with image manipulation, not one single video editing program does do EVERYTHING you need it to do. Personally I have used a few different editing packages and have trialed several more. Currently I am jumping between Pinnacle and Sony Vegas. It could be argued that Pinnacle like Sony Vegas is a pro-sumer package. In my opinion the biggest advantage Sony has over Pinnacle is that there are more third-party plug-ins and add-ons available for Sony than from Pinnacle.

Http://vimeo.com. In the search box enter **vidguy069**. On the left side of the page click radio button labeled 'People' if interested. You'll be able to view ALL the videos. Sort of a timeline of my progress/regress of my 'talent'. I used to use YouTube to display my videos but they got annoyed when I put other people's music into my videos, Vimeo does not seem to care. My personal mantra is 'if it's not moving it's not worth shooting'. As for my interests they are varied. If you decide to visit the site check out the videos listed below to get a truer sense of my particular interests.

An Hour at the park

Butterflies 2014

Lewis Ginter Gardens

Tequila Volleyball-wmv

I hope everyone had, and is still having a wonderful holiday season.

MEMBER NEWS

FREE BOOK TALK



Thurs., Jan. 19, 7-9 pm,
[Arlington Central Library](#),
 1015 N. Quincy St., Arlington,
 VA, 703-228-5990, "[Walking
 Washington, DC](#)" Author and
 VPS member **Barbara Saffir**

asks: "Think you know Washington, DC? Have you stumbled upon D.C.'s "secret" tax-free shopping? Want to learn how to snag a visit to the capital's 171 embassies? Do you know where some Supreme Court justices like to dine?" In her book talk, Saffir guides urban adventurers on 3 of her 30 self-guided tours that blend culture, nature, newsy tidbits, and plain old fun. She'll also give tips on how to dress warmly to actually *enjoy* winter walks.

Details: <http://library.arlingtonva.us/events> and
<http://www.WalkingWashingtonDC.com>

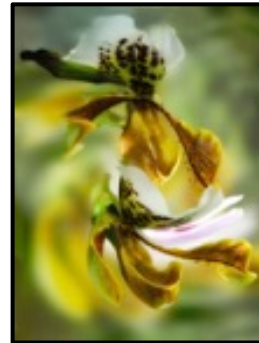
FREE NATURE PHOTO HIKE



Sun., Jan. 15, 9 am, Alexandria, VA.
 Please join **Barbara Saffir** on a 6-
 mile [Sierra Club hike](#) along the
 Potomac River to photograph ducks,
 woodpeckers, or other photogenic

subjects that nature tosses our way. Hikers will loop through the Belle Haven Marina, trek on the dirt trail through the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, and head north on the paved Mount Vernon Trail to Jones Point Lighthouse (one of America's last riverine lighthouses) and underneath the bustling Woodrow Wilson Bridge. They might also glimpse an original DC boundary stone, if it isn't submerged. This is *not* a tripod-type hike. It's more hike than photography. Hikers might stop several times to zero times in a mile. Registration/details:

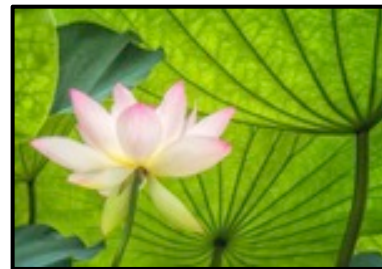
<https://www.meetup.com/sierrapotomac/events/236336855/>



WINNING PHOTO

Patricia Deege won second place for her photograph, "Glowing Orchids" at the League of Reston Artists' exhibit at the Northern Virginia Community College in November.

OPENING RECEPTION JAN. 8



The Vienna Arts Society is hosting a "Flora and Fauna" exhibit of painting and photography at [Green Spring Gardens](#), 4603 Green Spring Rd.,

Alexandria, VA, 703-642-5173. A reception is Jan. 8, from 1-3 pm. The exhibit closes Feb. 19. **Patricia Deege's** photograph "Lotus in Hiding," which earned an honorable mention, is on display.

Opportunities/Calendar

Dec. 31: Vienna First Night celebration (Last chance to photograph this event before we submit photos for the 2018 Town of Vienna calendar.) Details: <http://www.firstnightvienna.org/>



Win-Win-Win on New Year's Day: Shoot a photo, fulfill your New Years Resolution to get in better shape, *and* possibly win \$500? Yes! Just take a hike in a Virginia State Park on Jan. 1 and take a pic for its "First Day Hike" photo contest. First prize is a \$500 Virginia State Parks overnight-stay gift certificate. Details: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/blog/first-day-hikes-2017>

Jan. 3: Don Rosenberger speaks at Northern Virginia Photographic Society, Dun Loring Fire Station, 7:30, Details: <http://nvps.org/home/>

Jan. 9 deadline for ArtSpace Herndon Competition: VA, DC, MD, & WV photographers are invited to participate in this fine art photography competition. Details: <http://www.artspaceherndon.com>

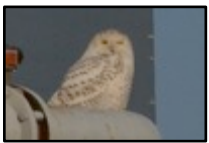
Dec. 16-Jan. 22: Glen Echo exhibit. Details: <http://glenechophotoworks.org/2016/06/03/ambiguity-of-light/>

Ends Jan. 15: Chinese Lantern Festival, Roer's Zoofari, 1228 Hunter Mill Rd., Vienna. Details: <http://www.chineselanternfestival.com> and <http://www.roerszoofari.com/>

Jan 29: PSA Travel Round 2 Competition. Deadline: Midnight.

Jan. 30 deadline to enter United/Divided photo exhibit, Photoworks at Glen Echo Park. \$40 entry fee. Exhibit: March 3 – April 2. Details: <http://glenechophotoworks.org/>

Feb. 17 deadline for Joseph Miller Abstract Photography Exhibit. Entry fee: \$25. Artists' reception is May 7. Details: <http://nvacc.org/home/abstract-exhibit/>



Snowy Owl: Seldom in Virginia, a big Snowy Owl flew down from the Arctic to vacation at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge around Christmas. Sighting updates posted on VA's Birding News: <http://birding.aba.org/maillist/VA01> . The refuge's own site tracks Snow Geese and other birds. (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague/birdsightings.html>) Cornell/Audubon eBird site tracks birds nationwide. (<http://ebird.org/>)

Share, Inspire, and Learn : Please join VPS's Flickr group for inspiration from your fellow members



and to share your own stellar photos online. It's also a great tool to get feedback on images you are thinking about entering into competitions. Current VPS members can join by visiting <https://www.flickr.com/groups/vienna-photographic/> and clicking

"Join Group" at the top. Then wait for approval from Michael Cassidy and/or Lori Saunders, which arrives by FlickrMail. After you've joined, you can add photos several ways, such as when you're on the VPS site, click "Add photo" at the top and follow the prompts. Mark your photos "public" if you want everyone to see them or "friends" or "family" if you just want signed-in VPS group members to view them. If you aren't on Flickr, click here to join: <https://www.flickr.com/>

VPS Board Members

President	<u>NEEDED</u>	
First VP	David Kepley	kepley.david@gmail.com
Secretary	Debbi Rife	angeltaz_2@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Burgess Levin	burgessblc@aol.com
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VP-Judges	John Padbury	faotc@aol.com
VP-Comp.	Janet Gelb	janet@gelbnet.com
Digital Proj.	Committee	Joan, Bob Bills, Sharon
VP Mem Com	Gloria Spellman	spellg1@aol.com
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VP Operations	Joseph Morton	ffig2005@yahoo.com
Social Events	Carol Carroll	csquared02@yahoo.com
Exhibits	<u>NEEDED</u>	
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50/50 Raffle	Julie Cochran	catlady1821@cox.net
Nat. Vis. Rep.	Bill Mugg	billmuggster@gmail.com

Focal Points

newsletter is published monthly except for a combined July/August issue. Please email member news, story ideas, stories, and low-res photos to Editor Barbara J. Saffir at:

Barb22030@yahoo.com

Competition Themes

Jan. 18:	1. Textures, 2. Bridges
Feb. 15:	1. Windows, 2. Town of Vienna <i>(To support Town of Vienna exhibit)</i>
March 15:	1. Music/Performances/Instruments, 2. Digital Art <i>(Patterns in architecture, creative photography from original image with use of apps, filters, any software.)</i>
April 19:	1. Autumn, 2. Digital Art <i>(Gardens can include trees/bushes, creative photography from original image with use of apps, filters, any software.)</i>
May 17:	1. Spring, 2. Collections <i>(Examples: toys, hats, shoes, spoons, buttons, dolls, etc.)</i>
June 21:	End of Year Competition

(Please see <http://www.vpsva.org> for full definitions.)

Resource Center

Workshops, classes, and tips. Email us with resources you've tried and want to recommend.

Please see <http://www.vpsa.org> to print out a membership application. -BJS (Barb22030@yahoo.com)

Instruction, Workshops, Non-VPS Field Trips, and Speakers

Nikhil Bahl:	www.NikhilBahl.com
Capital Photography Center:	http://www.capitalphotographycenter.com/
Eliot Cohen:	www.eliotcohen.com
Corey Hilz:	https://www.coreyhilz.com/
Robin Kent:	www.photographybykent.com
Bill and Linda Lane:	http://www.lanephotoworkshops.com/
New Life Photos infrared:	http://www.newlifephotos.com
Freeman Patterson/Andre Gallant:	www.freemanpatterson.com
Photoworks Classes:	www.glenechophotoworks.org
Don Rosenberger:	www.donrosenberger.com
Irene Sacilotto:	www.ospreyphoto.com
Shutterbug Excursions:	https://www.meetup.com/shutterbugexcursions/
Matthew Schmidt:	www.loreleistudios.com
Denise Silva Roadrunner Tours/Meetup:	https://www.meetup.com/Road-Runner-Photography-Tours/ http://denisesilvaphotography.com/
Tony Sweet:	http://tonysweet.com/
Josh Taylor:	http://www.joshuataylorphotography.com
Frank Van Riper:	www.GVRphoto.com
VA Beltway Photo Meetup:	https://www.meetup.com/Virginia-Beltway-Photography-Meetup
Brian Zwit:	http://www.brianjzwit.com