FOCAL POINTS

VIENNA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

April Dates to Remember

April 12- Deadline to upload your images for our online competition on April 15 ! Theme - Silhouettes and City Life and Open.

April 19 - Dead for submitting your photos to Wild Virginia contest. The link is

https://wildvirginia.org/wild-virginia-hosts-photography-contest-sponsored-by-richmond-camera/

Note from the Editor - Sophie and I are sitting here waiting for someone to email us articles for the newsletter. :) If you have emailed and didn't see it in the newsletter shoot me a reminder to look for it, sometimes they get lost in the shuffle.

Thanks!!!! Barb

The Prez Sez

AS I don't have to tell you, these are difficult times for us all. Speaking for everyone on the Board of the VPS, we urge all of us to adopt the safe practices that our health care experts have recommended to us. We want all of our VPS family to be safe in these dangerous times!

So what is your club doing?

We are continuing our competitions. That's right! Please submit your digital entries for the April and May competitions as you always have. We are getting a judge to review them in his/her home and report to us the winners and his/her commentary. Ok, it's not the same as being there in person, but we are still getting a pro to critique our images.

At the end of the month, Bill Mugg will host a zoom forum session. If you have never participated in a zoom meeting, it is pretty simple. Bill will give you a link and a password. Click on the link and then enter the password. Bill will share his screen with us and you will see a selection of the participants' images on the screen. You can verbally interact with the presenter. Pretty cool!

Paul is trying to get speakers who will offer a presentation via

April 15

Denise Silva will be our competition judge.

Denise's interest in photography started when her grandmother would share images from her travels to Egypt and Africa on safari. The evenings watching slideshows set the seed. Thirty five years later those seeds took root and inspired Denise to embrace photography and more specifically travel photography.

Denise has been recognized one of the Top 200 Women Photographers Who Inspire by Nature Photo Guides and has had multiple articles published in Extraordinary Vision (EV) Magazine, and is a featured artist in Breakthrough Photography's Guide to Night Sky Photography.

Her passion is to share her knowledge of photography, while introducing people to the amazing landscapes, wildlife, and people all over the world.

You can find out more about Denise and her tour company at Roadrunner Photography Tours.

zoom. We'll let you know about that. In the meantime several board members have sent emails to the membership about on-line training opportunities. Some of them are free!

Please consider posting your work on the VPS Facebook page. You'll get comments there! Lori has challenged us to shoot images for the theme of the week. Take a shot at it!

We are not supposed to travel to some of our favorite locations to shoot so instead focus on interesting subjects within walking distance of your home. Here is one of the tulips in from of my house.

Stay safe and keep shooting!

David Kepley

VPS President

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Using Lori's suggestion I walked around our neighborhood and located the flowering trees and luckily this house was for sale and vacant so I could stand there forever and take photos to my hearts content. Barb

Venture Into the African Bush

by Patricia Deege

The wildlife conservancies and national parks of Kenya offer an incredible insight into the many birds and animals that reside in its vast enclaves. Last October, I spent two weeks with Gamewatchers Safaris (Porini Camps), exploring the African wilderness and had the most amazing encounters with the animal world.

Imagine waking up to bird calls and the solid grunt of a hippo right outside your tent. Later, step out and enjoy a flaming sunrise while sipping the first cup of coffee, delivered to our tent along with cookies and a jug of hot water to wash.

The first game drive leaves at 6:15 a.m. and it is cold so we huddle under a poncho while watching the land slowly come alive. The animals are already awake and ready for the day. A pride of young lions are chasing each other around the bushes, the black-backed jackal is stretching out and seeking prey in the long grass. The baby hyenas , little bundles of fur, are cautiously exiting their den to play in the sandy areas near the river. A huge wart hog, his whiskers bristling, trots briskly away on who-knows-what errand. Elephants with their young gather at the waterhole to drink and the zebra keep together to protect their new fawn. A female leopard, (named Fig as she was born under a fig tree) that had hidden her kill high in the branches of a tree just uphill from the camp, has decided that it is not all that secure. We met her walking steadily down the hill, carrying her heavy burden and she disappeared into the trees at river's edge, no doubt going to haul her dinner up into the sanctuary of another, more satisfactory, tree.

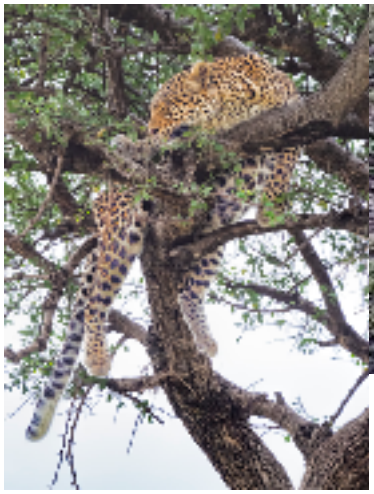
Returning for lunch at camp and a brief afternoon nap, we set out again each mid- afternoon for another adventure. Often the animals were by that time sated with food and resting in the afternoon warmth. We found a family of cheetah, mother and four half grown cubs, lying in the shade of a spreading acacia. Some of the cubs were asleep but the mother kept a watchful eye for danger. A small pride of lions were also lazily enjoying the sun on a sand bank and were quite oblivious to our presence. On another day, in pouring rain, we encountered a group of four young cheetahs, trying out their hunting skills on a nearby herd of wildebeest. The cheetahs were inexperienced and their hunting efforts did not result in a kill that day as their quarry always sensed danger and ran off to safety.

There are several species of antelope in Kenya and, after a day or two, we were able to distinguish between the ubiquitous impala, with its M-shaped black marking on the hind quarters, the Grants gazelle, the Gerenuk with its graceful long neck (it often stands on hind legs to reach tasty morsels on the bushes), and the Thompson's gazelle, the smallest of them, the tails of which never stopped wagging, even when they dashed away startled by our approach. There are also two very small gazelle, the Suni and the Dikdik but these are rarely seen. The impala are the most common; there are thousands of them and they are reputed to be the "MacDonalds of the bush."

There are literally hundreds of bird species in this area. We were lucky to see the largest one, the Marshal eagle, among many others the tiny, brilliantly colored, bee-eater, bright yellow finches that came to try and steal our lunch, and the beautiful lilac-breasted roller that, true to its name, flies up and then makes a rolling dive, all to attract its mate. I asked my husband if he could do that and he looked at me in horror!!

On a visit to the Mara River, we encountered a lion kill that had been taken over by a troupe of hyenas that were "laughing" and quarreling over the food. A jackal sneaked in to snatch and run off with a morsel and several Marabou storks attempted to hone in on the unexpected bounty. On the river bank, we saw a huge Nile crocodile sunning itself, and several hippos lazily floating in the dark water, occasionally submerging and then coming up to blow out of their nostrils and annoy their hippo neighbors.

It would take pages and pages to describe all our experiences; suffice to say we were entranced by the beauty of the animals and birds that we saw and I would love to return some day and find some more wonderful moments in nature.



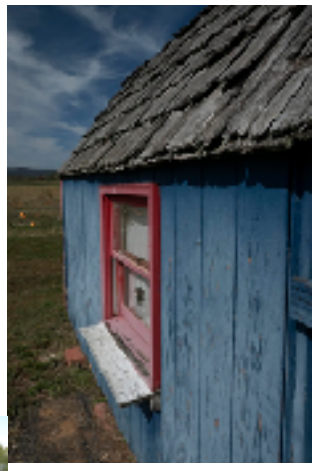
Patricia this sounds like a wonderful adventure! Thank you for sharing!!

Field Trips!!!

Thank you to Lori Saunders for sending us these write ups and photos to go along with them. We will have a lot to look forward to in the coming months once the quarantine is lifted!!

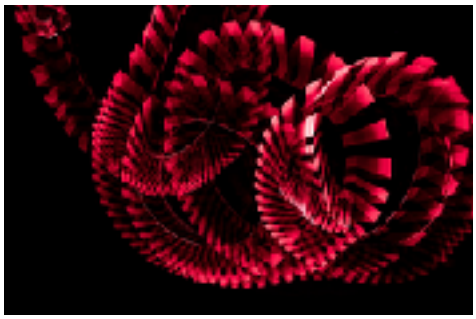
NationalArboretum During September, several VPS members attended a field trip to the National Arboretum in Washington DC on a beautiful fall day. We had a wonderful walk around the area with the National Capitol Columns -- they originally supported the old East Portico of the United States Capitol and tried to capture some interesting reflections and visitors. We also drove to a couple of additional place of interest, as it is 446 acres! The photo credits 1 & 2 Joan Axilbund and 3 Lori Saunders.

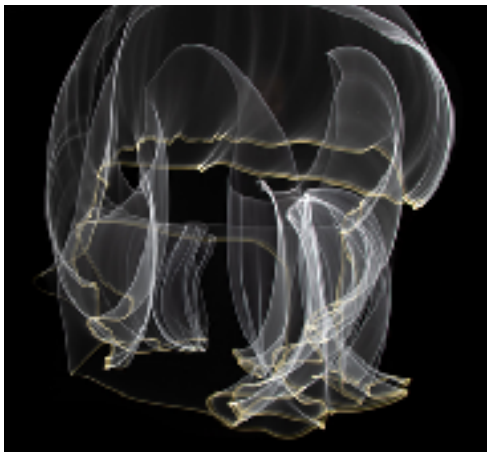
Farm Tour For the October field trip, members attended the Loudon County Farm tour where we drove about to several different farms - one featured Arabian horses, while another had Alpacas and there were many pumpkins to be seen everywhere. We only had time for a small sampling of the many farms available for tour Photo credits are 1-& 2 Lori Saunders and 3,4 and 5 Mort Friedman



Field Trips - continued

Light Painting - Field trips were on hold for the November/December holiday season; however, in January a couple of members gathered at Lori Saunders home for an introduction to Light Painting and we had a lot of fun making some abstract creations. Photo credits - Lori Saunders(I hope Lori decides to do this again for those of who missed this opportunity! These are great!)





The Joe Miller Abstract Exhibit

Joe has concluded his jurying activities of the 347 images we received. We thank all seventy nine of you who submitted images for consideration. The exhibit gallery constrains our selections to about 120 images each year to hang.

Being the 10th anniversary of the exhibit we had planned a special artists reception. We expected it to be the grandest exhibit to date.
However following recommendations from the CDC, we are cancelling the formal exhibit. Due to the recent pandemic of COVID-19 we will not be able to hang images. Therefore there is no reason to print, mat and frame your images. Instead we will create a digital gallery on the NVACC website. The gallery will open on Saturday, 2 May 2020.

Opportunities Online to Show Your Photos

Check out the blog on the Flickr website - 10 Flickr groups you must join right now. You may just find a group that interest you to show your work!!

https://blog.flickr.net/en/2020/04/02/10-flickr-groups-you-must-join-right-now/?fbclid=IwAR1cxvcMLdnnilpvGvMwUktXnbVRC0pq8JKs8AHT1yDCT4pL2WNnOl-oQ40

Another challenge that Lori has told us about is 52 Frames. This is a weekly photography challenge that looks pretty interesting! What do you think?

https://52frames.com

Vienna Community Center

"The year-long exhibition that the Vienna Photographic Society is putting on at the Vienna Community Center has been a resounding success thus far. Our club members have over 40 of their outstanding photographs on display. There has been much positive feedback received from the many visitors to see our exhibit. And at least 4 of our members have sold photographs to the public." That is pretty cool and I'm sure those photographers are pretty excited as well!

A reminder that nothing has been decided on the take down of the current show or the replacement of photos. As soon as information become available Gary Perlow will make an announcement. BUT we should all have plenty of time now to work on our photos and have some beauties to enter when the next show comes around!!

Educational Opportunities

If you are at home during this quarantine you might have some extra time to devote to our craft and the learning of new methods or perfecting some of our old. My inbox has been flooded with "Join Us" or "30 Day Free Trial" emails. But I have also seen some true freebies from professionals who are just trying to be nice and share their knowledge. So I thought it would be great to share some of these with you. Do you know of other opportunities?? Please give me a shout out!

Time Sensitive:

Nikon is offering free online classes for the month of April
https://www.nikonevents.com/us/live/nikon-school-online/

The Photoshop Virtual Summit April 13-17. **FREE**
https://davecross.kartra.com/page/yMT18

Tara Lesher Education is offering free tutorials on Compositing.
https://vimeo.com/channels/tleducationgroup

Professional Photographers of America (PPA) has opened their online education platform to any photographer for free for two weeks!
https://www.ppa.com/education-unlocked

Capital photography Center - To get the party started we're offering a 50% savings thru April.Coupon: SAVE50V
https://online.capitalphotographycenter.com/

Roadrunner Photography is offering 2 free webinars check it out here:
https://www.meetup.com/Road-Runner-Photography-Tours/

Out of Chicago have assembled an all star cast of photographers to teach us a wide variety of photographic techniques. This will all be done via zoom in the comfort of your home. Dates: april 24-26. **Cost: $300**. Here is the link
https://www.outofchicago.com/live/

Usually Available

Digital Photography School - 5 Things to do to every photo in lightroom:
https://digital-photography-school.com/5-things-to-do-to-every-photo-in-lightroom-to-improve-your-photos/

Nikhail Bahl is offering a free webinar:
http://www.nikhilbahl.com/nbp600-newsletter2020-04.html

Creative Live has free classes all the time don't forget to check them out.
https://www.creativelive.com

Digital Photography School - has a lot of free content and how to's.
https://digital-photography-school.com

S**hutterbug.com** has lots of free information and photo tips
https://www.shutterbug.com

Cole's Classroom has some free tutorials as well.
https://www.colesclassroom.com

The Art of Photography by Ted Forbes
https://www.youtube.com/user/theartofphotography

10 Photography Activities for Staying Productive in Quarantine
https://www.thephoblographer.com/2020/03/26/10-photography-activities-for-staying-productive-in-quarantine/

A few you may want to check out, some are offering free classes for a limited time or have free youtube videos you can watch:

Scott Kelby (various subjects)
Serge Ramelli (landscape, architecture)
Attilio Ruffo (landscape)
Nigel Danson (mainly landscape)
David Yarrow (fine art wildlife)
Michael Nichols (wildlife)
Neil Fisher (wildlife, macro, etc.)
Bryan Peterson (Various subjects)
Adobe https://www.adobe.com

Congratulations to the March Winners!!!!

Judge – Mary Ann Seton

Monthly Theme: Wild, Vivid Color –

Novice

1st Place **AND** People's Choice Award

	George Hogeman	Sikh Turbans at Golden Temple

Advanced

1st Place	Lori Saunders	Let me out!
2nd Place	Patricia Deege	Disappearing Autumn

3rd **AND** People's Choice Award

	Mary Jane Fish	2 Beautiful Birds
HM	George Silvas	Hey Good Looking. . . Wanna Ride
HM	Paige Counts	Dawn at the Top of the Mountain

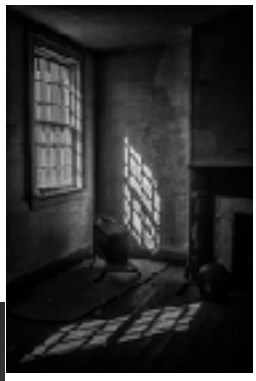
Monthly Theme: Black and White

Novice

1st Place **AND** People's Choice Award

	Carol Shoemaker	Opening

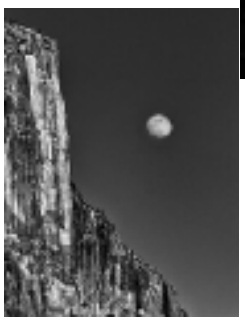
Advanced



1st Place	Gary Perlow	Beach Stream
2nd Place	Bill Mug	Irish Ferns
3rd Place	David Kepley	El Capitan and full moon
HM	Gloria Spellman	Lioness

HM **AND** People's Choice

	Lori Saunders	Window Shadows
HM	Lori Saunders	Broken Dreams



Open Digital

Novice –

1st Place AND People's Choice

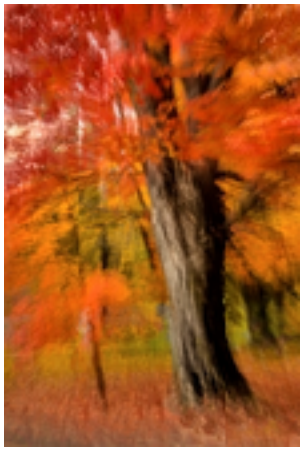
	Joseph Chiara	boats

Advanced –

1st Place	Gloria Spellman	Ballet Dreams

2nd Place **AND** People's Choice

	Bill Mugg	Insect Geometry
3rd Place	Janet Gelb	Rocks with Trees



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.

SITE for SIGHTS

Barbara Johnson

For years I have been writing down places I have gone to take photos or places that I want to go to but I never put them in one place. As you can imagine I could never find that scrap of paper I wrote down the most interesting area when I was ready to go. So while I was trying to figure out what to put in the newsletter I thought why don't I make a spreadsheet and share it with you! (After all we won't always be in lockdown!) Hopefully others will make their suggestions and we can have a listing of all the great photo sites around the area. We could also have a section outside the area and include places like Cape May or the Finger Lakes region, etc The possibilities are endless. I would love to have your feedback whether or not you even like this idea or don't care one way or the other. If you like the idea and have something you would like to add to the list shoot me an email and I will be happy to add it. Include areas that you think everybody has been to because maybe someone is new to the area and hasn't been there yet. For example, I had never even heard of McKee Beshers Sunflower area until about 2 years ago. I KNOW, right!!

Here is a copy of my Excel spreadsheet so that I can update it easier and reformat, etc.The spreadsheet is a work in progress so not all the spaces have been filled in yet and I'm still working on formatting. If you have other locations that you think should be on the list please let me know so that it can be added. Who knows, maybe the next time you are ready to go shoot you will look at this list and find a real gem!!

Name	Location	Cost	Best time to visit	Other Comments
VIRGINIA				
Great Falls National Park	Great Falls, Virginia	$10+	Anytime	
Meadowlark Gardens	Vienna, VA	$3	Spring, Fall & Dec	
Green Spring Gardens	Alexandria, VA	Free	Spring, Fall	
Huntley Meadows Park	Alexandria, VA	Free	Anytime	
Burnside Farms	Nokesville, VA	$8	Spring, Fall	
Bull Run Park	Centreville, VA	Free	Spring for Bluebells	
Manassas Battlefield	Manassas, VA	Free	Anytime	
Old Town Alexandria	Alexandria, VA	Free	Anytime	Street & People Photography
Historic Leesburg	Leesburg, VA	Free	Anytime	Street & People Photography
Roer's Zoofari	Vienna, VA	$20	Anytime	
Burke Lake Park	Burke, VA	Free	Anytime	
Skyline Drive (Shenandoah National Park)	Front Royal, VA	National Park Fee	Anytime but Spring and Fall is best	

Arlington Cemetery	Arlington, VA	Free	Anytime	
Frying Pan Park	Herndon, VA	Free	Anytime	
Scott's Run Nature Preserve	Great Falls, VA		Anytime	
Steven F Udvar-Hazy Center	Chantilly, VA		Anytime	
Occoquan Regional Park & Downtown	Occoquan, VA		Anytime	
Leesylvania State Park	Woodbridge, VA		Anytime	
Merrimac Farm	Nokesville, VA		April	Bluebells
Sky Meadows State Park				

WASHINGTON DC				
Washington Monument	Washington DC	Free	Anytime	
US Capital				
The Bridge at The Yards Park				
The Friendship Arch in Chinatown				
Culture House (Super Colorful Church)				Also known as Blind Whino
Tidal Basin			March for Cherry Blossoms	
Thomas Jefferson Memorial				
James Madison Memorial Building				Next to Capital and Library of Congress
Library of Congress				
Lincoln Memorial				
The Reflecting Pool				
National Gallery of Art				
National Arboretum				
US Botanic Garden				

Dumbarton Oaks Gardens				
Hirshhorn Museum				
American Art Museum/Portrait Gallery				
The Netherlands Carillon				
Zoo				
Rock Creek Park				
The White House				
The National Mall				
Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens	Washington DC	Free	July	

MARYLAND				
McKee Beshers Sunflowers	River Road in MD	Free	July	
Rock Creek Park				
Georgetown Waterfront				
National Harbor				
Glen Echo Park				
Zoo				

Are you still reading. . . .:

I was reading an article yesterday about all the photos we have on our hard drives and sd cards, etc. and how we get so busy we never have gone back to process them. I began looking at mine and some I thought were just ok turn out to be some of my favorites now. If you are interested, go back through some of your old photos and process them or rework them and then send one or two to me with a line or two about the photo and I will put them in the next newsletter. I can't wait to see what you come up with!! Of course it will also tell me if anyone is still reading this when they get to page 13!!! lololol

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

Wild Virginia Photography [April]

https://wildvirginia.org/wild-virginia-hosts-photography-contest-sponsored-by-richmond-camera/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=598810d7-a4c9-496e-ad97-05d191fe92d1

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