FOCAL POINTS

Vienna Photographic Society

JULY/AUGUST, 2017

INSIDE:

Best of the Best

Abandoned

An Unhearing Ear

PSA Conference

Frogs, Swallows, and Water Lilies

JULY/AUGUST, 2017

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VPS is a member of

https://www.psa-photo.org

VPS meets on the 1st, 3rd, & 4th Wednesdays, September though June, at the Thoreau Middle School, Vienna, VA. Visitors are welcome. Please check VPS's calendar for details at https://www.vpsva.org

Welcome, President David Kepley!

This is my first opportunity to address you formally as the president of the Vienna Photographic Society. It is my pleasure to serve the society. I have been a member for about 5 years and I have learned so much from our speakers, judges, and forum presenters and I have sure have had fun meeting all of you! That is what VPS is all about: having fun with our favorite hobby – photography!

While we do not begin our meetings again until September, I hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities that summer presents to us. One of the highlights of my summer shooting schedule is visiting the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area on River Road in Poolesville, MD. Maryland's Department of Natural Resources planted 9 fields of sunflowers this year. As of July 20, McKee's website (http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/publiclands/central/mckeebeshers.aspx) said that some of the flowers "may peak by July 22-23 and others may peak by July 29-30." I had best luck in the late afternoon. McKee's website also provides a map of the sunflower fields. Here are some tips:

- Bring water, sunscreen, and bug spray.
- Use a tripod, but you can get good handheld shots.
- Take a stepladder to capture the masses of flowers.
- Consider shooting the flowers from a number of different perspectives. Use a wide-angle lens for sense of the mass of flowers. Use a telephoto to get bees visiting the flowers. Use a macro to focus on flower details. Don't forget to check out the back of the flower.
- Flowers around the edges of the field also provide some nice photo ops.

Have fun. I look forward to seeing you in September! ***- David Kepley***

(Sunflower photo from McKee-Beshers' website.)

Cover Photo of Carrie Furnace by Lori Saunders

Party On!

VPS's End of Year Dinner on June 21 was an enjoyable evening with delicious food (including a white chocolate sculpture of the US Capitol!), a great judge (**Brian Zwit**), and lots of time to schmooze with fellow photographers.

Brian re-judged all the images that won ribbon awards during the 2016–2017 club year. He noted that all the entries were outstanding, and that it was an extremely difficult task to pull out the best of the best. As winners were announced, Brian handed out ribbons and shook hands individually with each photographer. Best in Show was awarded to **Bill Mugg** for his image "Mystery Man." First, Second, and Third place ribbons and Honorable Mentions were awarded for all competition categories.

Plaques were awarded to those photographers who had accumulated the most points during 2016-2017 club competition year. The William S. Graybeal Memorial Award was given to **Kathrin Swoboda,** who won the most points across all competition categories. Photographer of the Year in Themes was awarded to **David Kepley** for the most points in that category. Photographer of the Year for Open Digital Advanced was awarded to **Kathrin Swoboda.** Photographer of the Year for Open Digital Novice was awarded to **Mary Rabadan.** Photographer of the Year for Open Prints was awarded to **Kathleen Furey.** The Special Achievement Award went to **Martin Fish.** Martin is a long-time member of the club. He moved from Vienna to Tennessee with his wife, Mary Jane in December, 2016 to be closer to kids and grandkids. He was presented with the award at that time. Martin was the audio visual guru for the club, and kept the equipment humming for all our competitions and forums. Novice photographers promoted to advanced, based on based on points won during the year, are **Mary Rabadan, Lisette Brisbois, and Nicol Hockett.** Congratulations to all the ribbon and plaque award winners from the evening, and to our new advanced photographers!

I will continue in the job of VP for Competitions next year. Have a wonderful summer and take lots of pictures! I look forward to seeing them when we start up our monthly competitions in September. ***- Janet Gelb***

SOME OF THE AWARD WINNERS WITH THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS:

David Kepley

Gloria Spellman

John Padbury

Patricia Deege

End of Year Competition Results

June 21, Judge Brian Zwit

End of Year Competition 2016-2017

Themes

1st	**Bill Mugg**	**Mystery Man**
2nd	Nicol Hockett	Danzatrice
3rd	Burgess Levin	A Smile in Lucca
HM	Bill Mugg	Zoey
HM	Patricia Deege	Blue Water Lily
HM	Kathleen Furey	Petal Fireworks
HM	Kathrin Swoboda	Fanfare
HM	Mary Rabadan	I See Grandpa
HM	Barbara Johnson	Smokey Mountain Mist
HM	Mort Friedman	Spring at 10,000 Feet
HM	Ceasar Sharper	Fishing in Black & White
HM	Kathleen Furey	Lotus with Leaf
HM	Kathrin Swoboda	Notre Dame Frieze
HM	Bill Mugg	Buda Bridge
HM	David Heagy	Carlsbad Beach Dwellers
HM	Gloria Spellman	Elephant Close Up
HM	Patricia Deege	Storm Clouds &Dead Tree
HM	Bill Mugg	Window Lit
HM	Gloria Spellman	Patterns of Neglect
HM	David Kepley	Last Leaf of Autumn
HM	Lisette Brisebois	Tiger Wash

Open Digital Advanced

1st Place	Kathrin Swoboda	Bald Eagle Catch
2nd Place	David Kepley	Is That a Mouse Over There?
3rd Place	Kathrin Swoboda	A Fly on Echinacea
HM	Bill Mugg	Here Comes Dinner
HM	Lori Saunders	Red Mars
HM	Mort Friedman	Stairwell, after Escher
HM	Kathrin Swoboda	Hummingbird Black & White
HM	Bill Mugg	Hungry River Otter
HM	Sharon Connolly	Swirling Anemone
HM	Ceasar Sharper	Carolina Chickadee Perch

Open Digital Novice

1st Place	Mary Rabadan	Great Blue Heron
2nd Place	Mary Rabadan	Grand Cayman Iguana
3rd Place	Barbara Saffir	Juvenile Barn Swallow
HM	Barbara Saffir	Heron
HM	Alana Glaves	Hoverfly Entering Lilac

Open Prints

1st Place	John Padbury	Old Farm Tool
2nd Place	Patricia Deege	Children in the Street
3rd Place	Kathleen Furey	Daisy Galaxy
HM	Kathleen Furey	Verde Pirouette
HM	Gloria Spellman	Ballet in Blue
HM	David Kepley	The Long and Winding Road

Best in Show **Bill Mugg** **Mystery Man**

William S. Graybeal Memorial Award (For most points across all categories): Kathrin Swoboda

Special Achievement Award: Martin Fish.

Novice Promotions: Mary Rabadan, Lisette Brisbois, Nicol Hockett

Plaques

Themes	David Kepley
Open Digital Advanced	Kathrin Swoboda
Open Prints	Kathleen Furey
Open Digital Novice	Mary Rabadan

Mary Rabadan, David Kepley, Kathrin Swoboda, & Kathleen Furey

Rear: Gloria Spellman, Kathleen Furey, David Heagy, David Kepley, & Patricia Deege. Front: Bill Mugg, Mary Rabadan, Barbara Saffir, Lori Saunders, & Kathrin Swoboda.

Rear: Nicol Hockett, John Padbury, David Heagy, & Patricia Deege. Front: Bill Mugg, Mary Rabadan, Kathleen Furey, & Kathrin Swoboda.

PSA Report
And A Big Thank You!

PSA Interclub Competition Results

Travel Round 3: Images by **Patricia Deege, Mort Friedman, Bill Mugg, John Nye, Ceasar Sharper, and Wayne Wolfersberger** received a total of 70 points, placing Vienna Photographic Society in 7th place. Overall end of season finish is a strong 6th place out of 20 clubs.

PSA Open (PID) Round 4: Images by **Wayne Wolfersberger, Ceasar Sharper, Mary Ramadan, Bill Mugg, Kathleen Furey, and Mary Jane Fish** represented VPS at a judging at the Photography Club of Beaufort, SC. Total score was 59 points and VPS placed 12th. Overall VPS finished in 4th place out of 31 clubs. Outstanding!

I would like to thank all the PSA judges this year: **Joan Axilbund, Bob Bills, Lou Coglianese, Patricia Deege, Mort Friedman, Mary Jane Fish, Kathleen Furey, David Heagy, David Kepley, Bill Mugg, Lori Saunders, Annette Shinafelt, Ceasar Sharper, and Gloria Spellman.** Our success in the Nature and Travel competitions could not have been possible without their expertise!

Important PSA Rules note: Just like in the Nature Visions Fine Art category, use of textures may not be taken from outside sources (like Topaz). You can make your own textures that must originate from your own images.

The next PSA competition season starts with PSA Nature deadline in September.

- Kathrin Swoboda, PSA Representative

PSA Conference
Oct. 8-14, 2017

Wanted: organizer for a VPS group to attend the annual Photographic Society of America conference in Pittsburgh and a VPS photo session at Carrie Furnace. Can you help? Contact David Heagy (dheagy AT gmail.com). PSA'S 2017 national conference offers classes, workshops, photo tours, a print exhibition, social events, and vendors. For details, visit: https://psa-photo.org/index.php?conference-overview. The conference will offer several tours of the Carrie Steel Furnace display -- but VPS could try to reserve their time before or after the conference to avoid crowds as a field trip. For details, see: https://www.riversofsteel.com/about/ Also, please read Lori Saunder's field trip report from Carrie Furnace, which follows.

Please visit PSA's web site to learn how Pittsburgh is no longer your grandfather's steel town. **Register by July 31 for an early-bird discount.**

Pittsburgh's Carrie Furnaces

By Lori Saunders

On April 11, I attended an "Abandoned America" photo workshop at Carrie Furnaces in the Pittsburgh area. It run by Matthew Christopher, whose primary area of photographic interest is in abandoned sites; he started documenting them a decade ago while researching the decline of the state hospital system. He has published multiple books including, "Abandoned America: Dismantling the Dream" and "Abandoned America: The Age of Consequences." He organizes and leads many workshop field trips to abandoned sites. If you are interested in this area of photography, I encourage you to check out his upcoming trips: https://www.abandonedamerica.us/workshops-71158. Matthew is very personable and available to work with you as much (or little) as you like during the workshops.

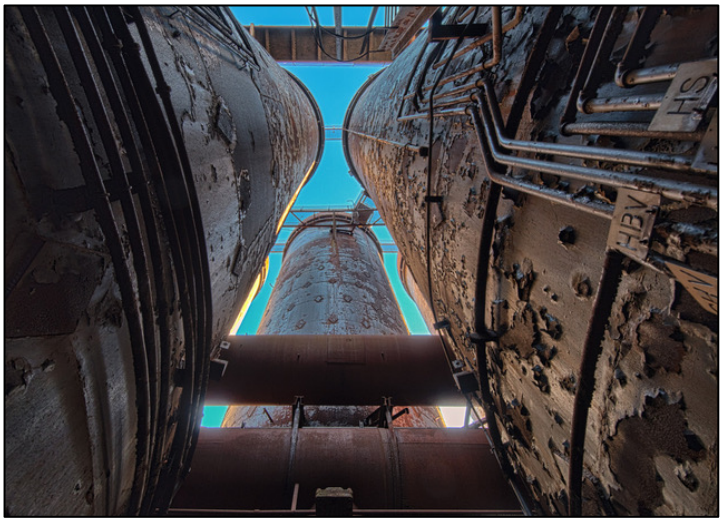
This workshop was from 3-8 pm, which allowed me to drive up that morning and arrive just in time. I stayed overnight and attended another workshop in the area the next day at Yellow Dog Village. I had visited Carrie Furnace with RoadRunner in 2015 and recalled that it was difficult to find. It was still difficult because the roads had been rearranged, once again. After consult with fellow photographers who were also driving around, we managed to arrive in time.

Carrie Furnace is a former blast furnace located along the Monongahela River, built in 1884 and operated until 1982. During its peak, the site produced 1,000 to 1,250 tons of iron per day. Today, only furnaces #6 and #7, which operated from 1907 to 1978, along with the hot metal bridge are still in existence. The furnaces, designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006, are among the only pre-World War II 20th century blast furnaces to survive. The site is managed by Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation (https://www.riversofsteel.com/) .

Upon arriving, our photography group was given an introduction to the history of the site by the proprietor and basic safety information of where to and not to go; off limits areas were clearly marked. There was also an optional historical tour, which I did partially join. Even though I had been there in 2015, a lot was different. Areas on upper levels that I had been able to visit were now off limits due to safety concerns. However, large areas that had previously been inaccessible were now cleared of brush and open to explore. This included a railroad bed and rusted out locker rooms, which created some wonderful colors in the evening light. It is a huge facility and it is hard to cover, even in five hours. There are myriad areas to explore 'inside' and great views from the outside as well. And if you look carefully through all the photos (please follow the link to my Flickr album), you will see some unexpected "wildlife" art - it was created in "secret" by local artists and by the time it was discovered, was just too cool to dismantle. These same artists now continue there art on site, with permission.

As space is limited here, I've included a few photos from this 2017 trip but please check out more of my Carrie Furnace photos on Flickr at https://flic.kr/s/aHskSNwQqP (2017 trip) and https://flic.kr/s/aHskazb28e (2015 trip). I welcome comments and critiques! if you are attending the PSA conference in October, photo tours of this site are available. Be sure to check it out!

- Lori Saunders



My Fav Photo

By David Kepley

I took this picture when I was in Mt. Rainier National Park several years ago. We had pulled over at a parking lot and took a short walk to the middle of a mostly dry streambed that was fed by a glacier several miles away. That's when I spied this very interesting (to me anyway!) piece of an old log. The sun was hitting it so as to bring out some fascinating lines and shapes in it. I went in very tight on the subject to focus on its graphic elements and rendered it in B&W. So what do the shapes remind you of? People have told me that it looks like an ear or perhaps a sonogram? What do you think? Fun, huh?

Do YOU have a "Fav Photo" to share with your fellow members in a future issue? Please email it to Focal Points Editor Barbara Saffir (Barb22030 at yahoo dot com) along with a 10-word to 110-word description of why (or how) you took it. Thanks!

Field Trip Report:
Patuxent Research Refuge

For the first time in memory, VPS held an "informal field trip" and invited our 1,056 Meetup members. We visited Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, MD, the only national wildlife refuge established to support wildlife research. (https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/) Eight of us attended on June 24, including 2 Meetup members and a friend of the club. After checking out VPS President David Kepley's great photo exhibit there, we hit the trails. We saw a massive amount of pink and white water lilies -- perhaps the most you'd find anywhere in the Mid-Atlantic. We also photographed swallows flying with twigs to build theirs nests, gobs of frogs, Great Blue Herons and other cool critters. Afterward, I ventured to the less-visited "North Tract" campus afterward to photograph hummingbirds and goldfinches at the visitor's center's birdfeeders. We hope that more Meetup members will join VPS so they can attend *official* field trips this year. Meanwhile, here are some photos I took. The rest are temporarily accessible here: *https://www.flickr.com/gp/olympusbjs/10f3gf* .
Meetup photos are posted here: https://www.meetup.com/Vienna-Photographic-Society/events/240776516/ .

- Barbara Saffir

Patuxent (con't)

Photos by Lori Saunders

Photo Opportunities/Member News/Calendar

July 31: ***CONTEST DEADLINE.*** Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Photo Contest. For details, visit: http://vaswcd.org/photocontest

July 31: ***KENILWORTH CONTEST DEADLINE.*** Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens' nature photo contest http://www.friendsofkenilworthgardens.org/projects/

Aug. 1 and 14: ***NATURE VISIONS PHOTO EXPO.*** Ticket sales begin Aug 1 and uploads begin Aug. 14. NatureVisions.org

Aug. 1: ***CONTEST DEADLINE.*** 5 pm deadline for 47th Annual Labor Day Art Show at Glen Echo Park. For details, visit: http://glenechopark.org/labor-day-art-show-2017-call-entries?utm_source=LDAS+2017+-+Call+for+entries+%231&utm_campaign=Labor+Day+Art+Show&utm_medium=email

Aug. 31: ***VIENNA CALENDAR DEADLINE.*** The deadline for submitting photos to the Town of Vienna for their 2018 Calendar. The scenes must be within the town limits. The dates for events in the town are at https://www.viennava.gov/calendar.aspx

Sept. 6: ***VPS.*** *Club activities resume for the 2017-2018 year. VPS calendar will be updated in August.*

Sept. 15: ***NATURE VISIONS.*** Deadline for submission of images that will be reviewed and allowed to resubmit if image is declined.

Sept. 15: ***PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE.*** Friends of Claude Moore Park Photography Expo deadline is 5 pm. For details, visit: https://www.facebook.com/FofCMP.

Sept. 22: ***NATURE VISIONS.*** Deadline for submission of images. (Images submitted after Sept. 15 and before Sept. 22 will be reviewed but if declined, the submitter will not be able to resubmit.)

September: VPS PICNIC. Details will be emailed to members later this summer.

September: ***NATURE'S BEST.*** 21st Annual Nature's Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards Exhibition at the National Museum of Natural History (https://naturalhistory.si.edu/exhibits/natures-best-2016/). Closes September 2017.

Oct. 8-14: ***PSA CONFERENCE.*** (See story.)

Nov. 3-5: ***NATURE VISIONS.*** NatureVisions.org

Barbara Saffir had three of her wildlife photos published in the photo contest issue of "Virginia Wildlife Magazine." Virginia's Department of Game & Inland Fisheries publishes the magazine. To learn how to enter the contest next year, visit: *https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/virginia-wildlife/*

VIENNA CALENDAR

Submit Your Photographs for the 2018 Town Of Vienna Calendar

Every other year the Town of Vienna invites VPS to submit our photographs for their annual printed calendar. The scenes must be in the town limits. They prefer photos showing one of their events or the seasons. They will probably ask for them by the end of August and give us a Dropbox to submit them. Please contact David Heagy (dheagy AT gmail DOT com) if you have any questions.

Here are some upcoming events:

- Saturdays: Vienna Farmers Market, 8 to noon, 301 Center St. South
- Summer performances on the green, most Fridays, 6:30 pm, 144 Maple Ave. East
- Chillin' on Church Street, 6:30-9:30 pm, July 29, Aug 18
- Big splash party, Town Green, July 29, non-stop fun event for the entire family. Includes giant water slides, slip n slides, sprinklers, moonbounces, water games, sno-cones, music, and raffles. Rain date is July 30.
- Vienna Youth Players Production, Aug 4,5, 11, 13, location TBA
- Aug 12, 10 am, Kids Adventure Race. This fun, kid-friendly, obstacle-course race includes hay pyramids, sunken tires, and more. For ages 5-13, Southside Park, 1315 Ross Dr. SW

For details and other events, visit: https://www.viennava.gov/calendar.aspx

VPS THEMES FOR 2017-2018

Sept. 20	Nature Summer
Oct. 18	Ducks/Birds Famous places/buildings/memorials
Nov. 15	Working (animals, people, machines) Street Photography
Jan. 17, 2018	Simplicity Abstracts in Nature Digital Art
Feb. 21, 2018	Black & White Winter Digital Art
Mar. 21, 2018	Night Photography Animals in Motion
Apr. 18, 2018	Things that Fly Photojournalism
May 16, 2018	Town of Vienna Flowers Digital Art

VPS

President David Kepley

FOCAL POINTS *newsletter is published monthly except for a combined July/August issue. Please email member news, story ideas, "My Fav Photo," stories, and low-res photos to Editor Barbara Saffir AT Barb22030 at yahoo.com.*

(Please email webmaster@vpsva.org to contact the club.)

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