



# **FotoFax**

**55 Years - December 2020**

**The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Photographic  
Society**

**Leaves  
By  
Steve Glintz**

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FotoFax is the monthly newsletter of the **Northern Virginia Photographic Society** FotoFax is published monthly September through May.

The most recent issue of FotoFax can be found at: [Current FotoFax](#). Past issues can be found at: [FotoFax Archives](#).

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NVPS members wishing to write articles, provide content, announce awards they have received or communicate shows in which they have images should write to the [FotoFax Editor](#).

Sidney N. Stone  
Editor

**Steve Glintz's image of Leaves brightens FotoFax's front-page this month. He created the image on the NVPS November Field Trip to Great Falls on the Maryland side of the Potomac.**



## NVPS Club Calendar

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NVPS conducts meetings every Tuesday evening from September through May, followed by the End-of-Year Banquet the first Friday of June. In addition to weekly meetings a field trip is schedule once a month.

Here are the current NVPS meetings and events for the next three months. Please check the NVPS calendar on the website for up-to-date information at: [Calendar](#).

Day	Activity	Description
<b>DECEMBER 2020</b>		
1	Program	Marie Joabar - <i>How to Shoot the Moon, Fireworks, Waterfalls, and Snow</i>
8	E&T	Bill Corbett - Bird Photography
4	Field Trip	Old Town Alexandria Street Photography & Holiday Lights
15	Competition	Judge: Jennifer King – Theme: Fall Harvest
22	Member's Gallery Print	Judy Graham – <i>Memories of Greenland</i>
22	Member's Gallery - Digital	Bill Corbett – <i>Travels in Postwar Cambodia &amp; Vietnam – Part II</i>
22	Member's Forum	Kevin Linde – <i>Cruising the Southern Caribbean</i>
24	Member's Forum	Sidney N. Stone - <i>GoWest Road Trip</i>
<b>JANUARY 2021</b>		
5	Program	Emily Carter Mitchell - <i>Unique and Creative Techniques to Photography</i>
12	E&T	Mike Whelan – Abstract Photography
19	Competition	Judge: TBA – No Theme
26	Member's Gallery Print	Sidney N. Stone - <i>Retrospective</i>
26	Member's Gallery - Digital	Kathryn Mohrman - TBA
26	Member's Forum	Dennis Govoni
<b>FEBRUARY 2021</b>		
2	Program	Colleen Miniuk – <i>The Joy of Little Things: Macro Photography</i>
9	E&T	Portfolio Project – First Review
16	Competition	Judge: TBA – No Theme
23	Member's Gallery Print	TBA
23	Member's Gallery – Digital	Karol or John Murraray
23	Member's Forum	Wayne & Judy Guenther – <i>Planning Travel for Photography</i>

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## President's Message

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As we approach the end of a turbulent year many of us are especially grateful for our blessings and hopeful for what the new year will bring. I'm grateful for a fine team of leaders who have kept things going so well for our Club. Although we are not able to meet in person yet, we have still been able to meet every week, just as we have done for many years.

As of this writing we begin December with a presentation by Marie Joabar titled "How to Shoot the Moon, Fireworks, Waterfalls and Snow." Marie will cover how to obtain proper exposures of the moon and snow along with tips and techniques for capturing waterfalls as a silky flow and how to freeze fireworks displays.

Our December field trip will be held in Old Town Alexandria, where attendees will have an opportunity to practice street photography and create images of holiday lights.

Education and Training will feature a presentation this month on bird photography by Bill Corbett. Bill is an amazing bird photographer and this meeting should be an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in learning how to photograph birds.

The theme for our December competition is "Fall Harvest." It will be judged by Jennifer King. Remember that we have revised the rules of competition for this year only, and have included the revised rules on the website. To find them go to the Home page and select Activities and then Competitions. Please review the rules carefully before you submit your images.

We will conclude the month with two Members Galleries – "Memories of Greenland" by Judy Graham and "Digital Travels in Postwar Cambodia and Vietnam – Part 2" by Bill Corbett. Our Members Forum will be "Cruising the Southern Caribbean" by Kevin Linde.

Please note that there will not be a meeting on December 29.

I look forward to seeing you at the December meetings. Stay safe and well.

Ron Taylor  
NVPS President  
2020-2021

## From the Editor

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Welcome to the December 2020 issue of FotoFax.

I'm sitting in my den drafting my monthly message as I quarantine for the fifth day. I need a walk. I need to breathe the DC fresh air. I need to walk my neighborhood streets and alleys. I need to click the shutter.

Like many others Thanksgiving was not like those of previous years. My partner Jo and I cooked, ate and drank without the company of sons, daughters and friends. We zoomed in the family for a happy hour late in the day. No hugs. No kisses. A covid Thanksgiving. After all it is 2020!

But seeing the smiling, laughing faces and the back-and-forth chatter over our iPhones brought warmth and love to the day.

I spent part of Thanksgiving's day editing this issue of FotoFax. As I read, proofed and edited the content I thought of the fun, pleasure and challenges I get from photography and be associated with NVPS. The fun visiting places near and far, observing the beauty of our country, our cities, our people, and the good feeling I get clicking the shutter. The pleasure I receive seeing the beautiful images made by my friends in NVPS, envisioning them seeing the image as they click the shutter. The challenges I have selecting my favorite images and making them presentable. And I am thankful for knowing and interacting with so many members of NVPS.

I spent many years when I lived in Westchester New York kayaking. I coached 100's of people and lead many kayak trips on the Hudson River, Long Island Sound, New York Harbor, the Atlantic Ocean and other places. Since moving to DC I've enjoyed time on the waters of Potomac and the Chesapeake. So I was pleasantly surprised when an article about photographing birds from a kayak arrived in my inbox from Michele Lowell. You can read about some places she recommends for photographing birds. Oh, you may think capturing birds is difficult from land, just try it rocking on the water in a kayak.

As we enter the month of December and the holiday season remember to stay positive, healthy and happy. No one can deny the last nine months have been challenging but things will get better.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa.

See you Tuesday evenings on Zoom.

Stay Well & Safe,  
Sidney

## NVPS Programs

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### **December 1, 2020 – Marie Joabar – *How to Shoot the Moon, Fireworks, Waterfalls and Snow***



Marie Joabar from the Capital Photography Center will present *How to shoot the Moon, Fireworks, Waterfalls and Snow* at NVPS's December 1st program meeting.

Marie Joabar has been immersed in photography and photography education for more than 20 years and is passionate about sharing her knowledge about photography, cameras and digital technology with others.

Whether she's teaching photography, helping one better understand their camera or "see" better compositions, she works to build one's confidence and take away the intimidation and sense of overwhelming that often accompanies learning new things. She finds just the right way to take complicated concepts and explain them in a logical, easy to understand way.

Marie founded [Capital Photography Center](#) in January 2012 to help those with a love of photography grow their skills and reach their goals - be it to capture better snapshots or become a professional photographer. To this end, her company offers a wide variety of photography classes taught by professional photographers and renowned photographic educators where amateurs, hobbyists and professionals can learn about the areas of photography suited to their interests and experience level.

In addition to running her business and teaching, Marie finds time to enjoy her own photography and loves capturing people - both candid and posed, country landscapes, and dynamic cityscapes, especially at nighttime. Her travels have given her the opportunity to photograph in Venice, Tuscany, London, New York and various other locations in the United States. Her work can be viewed on her website at [Marie Joabar Photographs](#)

Originally from Michigan, Marie has lived in Alexandria, Virginia (outside of Washington DC) for the past 30+ years with her husband.

There are certain subjects that can be difficult to expose well such as the moon and snow. Marie will cover how to get proper exposures of each and will share tips to craft exciting shots of these subjects.

Marie will also cover tips and techniques for capturing waterfalls as a silky flow and will cover the tools that make it easier to be more creative. She'll also discuss how to freeze the fireworks display and capture it with multiple bursts in one frame.



### **January 5, 2021 – Emily Carter Mitchell – *Unique and Creative Techniques to Photography***



Emily Carter Mitchell will be our program speaker on January 5<sup>th</sup> presenting *Unique and Creative Techniques to Photography*.

Emily is an award winning and published nature and wildlife photographer based in Annapolis, Maryland. Her work has been included in numerous juried art shows, local newspapers, magazines, books and smart device apps. With a corporate background in Human Resources and extensive years in the travel and hospitality industry, she holds a Master's Degree in Global Management.

Her photographic journey began when she was a teenager and she has always enjoyed photography as a way of connecting to the world around her. Through her work *Nature as Art* she brings a creative interpretation of the natural world and her images express a sense of serenity with profound stillness and ethereal attributes.



Emily’s passion of photography is shared with others through her nature and wildlife photography classes for Capital Photography Center based in the Metro DC area ([Capital Photography Center](#))

Emily Carter Mitchell will introduce the concepts of “Unique and Creative Techniques to Photography” using a variety of methods to capturing an image that is beyond what the eye naturally sees.

The idea is to create something with a different feeling and unique perspective using tools in your ‘creative kit.’ She will discuss what might be included in this creative kit from in-camera techniques, Lensbaby lenses, and additional toys one can play with for any camera system.

Let’s all get out of the box, release our creative nature and have some fun!

Emily’s website and contact information follows:

Emily Carter Mitchell ~ Nature as Art  
NatureasArt.myportfolio.com  
Emilymitchellphotography.com/services

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NatureAsArtPhotography>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/nature.as\\_art/](https://www.instagram.com/nature.as_art/)

[https://www.instagram.com/emily\\_carter\\_mitchell/](https://www.instagram.com/emily_carter_mitchell/)

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/bellaremyphotography/>





## **February 2, 2021 – Colleen Miniuk– *The Joy of Little Things: Macro Photography***



Colleen Miniuk will talk at our February meeting about: *The Joy of the Little Things: Macro Photography*.

Colleen Miniuk is an ex-software engineer who fled Intel Corporation in 2007 to pursue a meaningful life as a full-time outdoor photographer, writer, publisher, instructor, and speaker. Her credits include *National Geographic* calendars, *Arizona Highways*, *AAA Via*, *National Parks Traveler*, *On Landscape*, and a broad variety of other publications. She has served three times as an Artist-in-Residence with Acadia National Park. She authored the award-winning guidebooks, *Photographing Acadia National Park: The Essential Guide to When, Where, and How* and *Wild in Arizona: Photographing Arizona's Wildflowers, A Guide to When, Where, & How* (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions) as well as the instructional ebook, *Seeing the Light in Outdoor Photography* (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions).

Colleen also writes a weekly advice column called “Dear Bubbles.” Colleen leads photography workshops and all-women photography workshops (called “Sheography™”) through her own company, CMS Photography, as well as for numerous camera clubs, national-level organizations, conferences, and private clients. Check out her website: [www.colleenminiuk.com](http://www.colleenminiuk.com).





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## NVPS Competitions

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The third Tuesday of each month is Competition Night. Members can submit digital color images and monochrome digital images into the competition. During the year NVPS conducts nine (9) competitions. Three competitions have themes; five (5) have no themes; and one (Oldies) permits images made outside the three-year limit applicable to the other 8 competitions (please note the change from the 2 year to 3 year time limit was made due to the covid-19 modification made for the 2020-2021 competitions).

The covid-19 pandemic has forced NVPS to modify competition rules for the 2020-2021 calendar year. Please read this article on the website to ensure you understand the current competition rules: [NVPS COVID Competition Changes](#)

Complete completion information can be found at: [NVPS Competitions](#). Have questions? Write [Competition VP](#).

### **December 15,2020 – Themed Competition – *Fall Harvest* – Judge by Jennifer King**

The theme for the December competition is *Fall Harvest*. Farms to Farmers Markets. A colorful time of year when produce is being farmed and sold. Land crops only, to reflect the colors. or work gathering and selling the fall harvest.

Jennifer King will join us to judge the competition.



Jennifer King is an internationally acclaimed landscape and nature photographer with a passion for teaching and inspiring photographers around the world. Jennifer draws on her fine art and design background to bring a fresh perspective to nature photography. Her ability to teach composition and inspire creativity is unmatched.

Jennifer was named 1 of 15 Amazing Women to Follow by 500px

Jennifer is the Founder of PHOTOGRAPHY for the FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER (pfabc.org), an industry wide organization bringing together the biggest names in photography to raise money for breast cancer research.

She is represented by the: Adobe, Singh-Ray, Prana Influencer, Think Tank Photo, Mindshift Gear, and Pixpa.

You can find her photography, video tutorials and interviews in Outdoor Photographer Magazine, Outdoor Photography Guide, Camera in the Wild, Photography Talk, Smoky Mountains Journal of Photography, SouthxSoutheast, Our State Magazine, VIA Magazine and more!

Jennifer speaks at many yearly photographic summits such as NANPA, CNPA, Nature Visions, MoNEP, and NECCC.

You can find out more about Jennifer at [Jennifer King Photo](#).

## **November 17, 2020 – Competition Results**

We were treated to a wonderful, inspiring set of images in the November 2020 competition. There was no theme for the competition. We thank Mollie Issacs for judging the competition. As you will remember Mollie talked to NVPS on Lightroom earlier this year.

Congratulations to the award winners in the NVPS November 2020 Competition.

Here's a summary of the images submitted and awards given in the competition.

<b>Class &amp; Category</b>	<b>Images Submitted</b>	<b>Number of Awards</b>
<b>Novice Color</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Intermediate Color</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Advanced Color</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Novice Monochrome</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Intermediate Monochrome</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Advanced Monochrome</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>



Here are the competition results. You can view all the winning images on the NVPS website at [November 2020 Competition Winning Images](#).



Award	Person	Image Name
<b>NOVICE COLOR IMAGES</b>		
		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Suzy McIntire	M Street in Full Color
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Greg Smith	Burst of Glory
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gitta Smith	Caught in the Act
HM	Jennifer Kang	Backyard Squirrel
<b>INTERMEDIATE COLOR IMAGES</b>		
		
1 <sup>st</sup>	John Eppler	Tequila!! Pick Your Poison
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Olsen	Great Egret In Breeding Plumage
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chau Nguyen	Yummy Snack For Breakfast
HM	Kevin Linde	Colored Milk Drop
HM	Kacy Turner	Color Swirl
HM	Eric Hansen	Wise One in the Rising Sun
HM	Ed Short	Family Day at the Beach

**ADVANCED COLOR IMAGES**

1 <sup>st</sup>	David Crooks	Fighting Goldfinches
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kimxuan Nguyen	Eagle in The Autumn
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thomas Brett	Palouse 1 Tree
HM	Wayne Guenther	Monoliths
HM	Judy Mcguire	Flower Fly on Coneflower
HM	Gary Perlow	Balanced Rock
HM	Eva Lanyi	Skye Sunrise
HM	Bill Corbett	Summer Hummer 2020

**NOVICE MONOCHROME IMAGES**

1 <sup>st</sup>	George Bradshaw	Sepia Sunflower At Merrifield Garden
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jack Ledgerwood	Honor
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fred Krebs	The Camel Trader
HM	Greg Smith	Bodie Light At Night

<b>INTERMEDIATE MONOCHROME IMAGES</b>		
		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kirk Johnson	African Cape Buffalo
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sidney Stone	Sparkles
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Doug O'Boyle	Lincoln's Profile
HM	Valerie Short	Line Weights
HM	Don Little	Swimming with the Sunfish
HM	Ilenia Alvarez	Wind Horse
<b>ADVANCED MONOCHROME IMAGES</b>		
		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Wayne Guenther	Grain Storage
2 <sup>nd</sup>	David Crooks	Cowboy Still Life
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Judy Guenther	Auditorium Graphics
HM	Ginger Werz-Petricka	Winter Night at Park and Middle
HM	Mike Whalen	Stairs to Nowhere
HM	Philip Winters	Balconies
HM	Rena Schild	Capitol Reflections





## Education & Training

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### December 15, 2020 – Bill Corbett – *Bird Photography*

Bill Corbett will be our December Education & Training presenter talking about *Bird Photography*. Bird photography is for everyone interested in the wildlife, beauty, and light that can be found just outside your kitchen window or far beyond. Bill's presentation will detail photography of birds at rest and in flight. His talk is geared to all levels of interest and photography expertise - from beginner to advanced.

Bill's illustrated presentation will cover five topics: Equipment, Exposure, Autofocus, Craft, and Setups. Each will be discussed in terms of the basics and how to move up a learning curve.

- **Equipment:** From using a point and shoot superzoom to handling big glass on a gimbal head.
- **Exposure:** Three words -- Shoot in manual. Three more words -- Expose for highlights.
- **Autofocus:** Luck favors the prepared. "Spray and pray" favors those who know and use various features offered by their camera's autofocus.
- **Craft:** "Sun and wind behind" is one of a number of well-known strategies for bird photographers to arrive at better opportunities, and to come away with better images.
- **Setups:** Feeders + flashes = fun.

Here are some of Bill's fabulous bird images.





## **January 12, 2021 – Mike Whalen – *Abstract Photography***

Most photography is based on capturing real, easily recognizable subjects such as a persons, places, or things. Abstract photography is different. It focuses on finding simple elements such as shapes, forms, lines, textures, tones, patterns, and colors. These elements can be found everywhere, and typically, can be small visual pieces of physical objects. Distortions from reflections or looking thru textured glass can also produce interesting abstract effects.



This presentation will show examples of abstract and semi-abstract images and how they were created, mostly in-camera, plus a few generated from post-processing in Photoshop.

These references provide tips on creating abstract images:

- [Abstract Photography for Beginners: 9 Tips for Capturing Stunning Abstract Images](#)
- [35 Abstract Photography Tips and Ideas](#)
- [The Complete Guide to Abstract Photography: 112 Tips](#)

As a teen, Mike learned a few basic photo tips from his father, an artist and photographer. He dabbled with film cameras in the 80's and 90's, and after that, played with several digital point-and-shoots. However, his interest became more passionate after purchasing a basic DSLR in 2006.

Mike joined NVPS in 2009 after learning about the club from fellow member, Willa Friedman. He held board positions from 2010 to the present, including President in 2013. He received several distinguished service awards and many competition awards thru the years.

Before COVID, Mike volunteered weekly as a pet photographer for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and, and as an event photographer for charitable organizations such as: The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition and The Epilepsy Foundation of America.

Mike says that joining NVPS was a most important step in furthering his love of photography.

Here are a few examples of abstract images.



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## Members Gallery

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### **December 22 – Digital – Bill Corbett – *From Angkor Wat to Hanoi: Pre-Covid Travel In Postwar Cambodia & Vietnam – Part II***



Bill Corbett is a bird and travel photographer who enjoys color, action and texture in his pictures. A photojournalist in college, Bill resumed spending serious amounts of time on photography when digital cameras came along. He is a Nikon shooter who prefers a long lens and who uses a flash anytime he can. Bill enjoys competing his images at NVPS and making albums from pictures he and his wife Judy take on their travels.



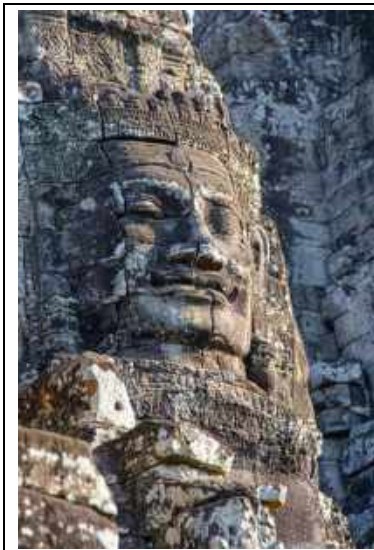
Bill and Judy moved three summers ago to southern Loudoun from McLean, where they raised their three kids. He is still just beginning to explore the photo opportunities in Loudoun and west of there. They spend most of the summer in Delaware, where Bill takes his camera to wildlife refuges regularly. His main photography goal is to keep on doing what he's been doing. It is fun.

Bill is the secretary and a former president of Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions (formerly Nature Visions), a member of NVPS for the past ten or so years, and the winner of a small number of photography ribbons and awards from those two organizations.





Bill is a retired Foreign Service officer and trade negotiator who served in Washington, Korea and Japan and enjoyed/suffered through more than a few travels to other points as a minor representative of American diplomacy. Follow him on Facebook for his views on current events; he doesn't post his pictures there.



## December 22, 2020 - Print – Judy Graham – Memories of Greenland



Judy Graham, one of NVPS's VP for Programs, has been fortunate to do some amazing things in her life, but the week she spent in Greenland aboard the 100-foot schooner, the Opal, remains one at the top of her list. Judy's member's Gallery presentation is a compilation of photos taken on her journey around Scoresby Sound, located on the eastern side of Greenland above the Arctic Circle. Her photos also include a stop at a Greenlandic

Inuit village, Ittoqqortoormitt, inhabited by approximately 400 residents and 250 sled dogs. Hunting whales, polar bears, seals, and musk ox (related to the goat) is still a way of life in this village, one of the most remote in the country.

Judy has lived in the Washington, D.C. area most of her life. She retired March 1, 2018 after a long career in the field of human resources management for corporate America. Judy joined NVPS in January 2011 with the goal of meeting local photographers, doing more local photography, and learning more about the art of photography. Her goals have been met 10 times over!

Judy is primarily drawn to photographing dramatic landscapes, often remote and difficult to get to. Initially her interest was in the desert southwest; however, in more recent years she has expanded her travel to include colder places such as Alaska, Patagonia, Iceland, Greenland, and the Canadian Rockies in winter. She does not let the cold get in her way.

Judy currently shoots with a Canon 5D MK IV. For most of the photos in her presentation she used a Canon 100-400mmL II lens and had to handhold due to the motion of the boat. For those who know her, she is glued to her trusty tripod.

As for the future, she has a trip planned to the Tetons in September 2020 and one to Arizona in November 2020. She is the happy holder of a permit to the Wave (North Coyote Buttes). Beyond that she has no idea.





## Member's Forum

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### December 22, 2020 – Kevin Linde – *Cruising the Carribean*



Kevin Linde will honor us at the December Member's Forum with his *Cruising the Southern Caribbean* presentation.

Kevin was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa and moved to Canada in 1992 where he met his wonderful wife, Debby. In 1998 they moved to Northern Virginia with their 2-year-old son, Ryan. Their second son, Jared, was born in 1999 when the family moved into their current house in Fairfax. The boys are now in college, with one at the University of Alabama and the other at George Mason. Kevin and Debby also have two dogs that are wonderful photography subjects. Kevin currently works as a physical therapist at his own private clinic, founded in 2003, in Fairfax City.

Kevin became interested in photography about 13 years ago when he bought his first Canon DSLR. Previously he used a Pentax SLR for about 5 years prior to switching to digital. Kevin learned the basics with this camera but was never that interested in photography. The change to digital provided instant feedback, allowing him to learn beyond the basics a lot faster. Kevin also enjoyed the post processing, constantly learning to this day.

Kevin currently uses Canon equipment he has accumulated over the years. His favorite subject to shoot is motor racing, which is influenced by his interest in the sport. Not far behind is anything else interesting to shoot.

Kevin says the great thing about photography is you can take a photo of almost anything and make it something unique.

He has been a member of NVPS for only one year but has enjoyed meeting some

wonderful people and some great photographers. Kevin enjoys sharing his photos but also enjoys seeing the great talent of others. He is not sure at this point in time where his photography may take him but will never stop learning.

Here are a few of Kevin’s images.



## Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions



**CONGRATULATION!** NVPS members rocked at this year’s Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions competition.

Here are the awards our members received:

<b>Best in Birds</b>	Summer Hummer 2020 2	Bill Corbett
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<b>Best in Flora</b>	Mysterious Roots	Mike Whalen
<b>Best in Water</b>	Moving Water	Lynn Cates
<b>Best in Architecture</b>	Reflecting on Chicago	Jim Sinsheimer
<b>Best in Sports/Action</b>	Precision	Valerie Short
<b>Best in "Other"</b>	Working Hands	Kieu-Lan Nguyen

You can see these award winning images at: [NVPS MAPV Awards](#).

## Willing Warriors Update

The Willing Warriors Project has been a big success. We received the following note expressing their appreciation for the contributions of NVPS members.





## **Field Trips**

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Your NVPS Field Trip Coordinators Tammy Tideswell and Steven Glintz have scheduled exciting field trips for this fall. Field trips are an excellent way to experience taking photographs in enticing places in a social environment with fellow NVPS members. They are also a great way to expand your photographic process knowledge and practice, often with the help of other members. A goal of NVPS is to help members learn and experience the joy of photography and field trips offer many opportunities.

Please note NVPS will not hold any field trips in January and February as of this writing.

### **December 4, 2020 – *Old Town Alexandria Holiday Light Street Photography***

Please join your fellow NVPSers for an evening of holiday lights and street photography in historic Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. Founded in 1749, the city boasts an array of historic homes, churches, businesses and museums. They are especially lovely in the holiday season.

**When:** Friday, December 4, 2020 from 7 PM to 9 PM

Rain Date on Saturday, December 5, 2020 from 7 PM to 9 PM

**Where:** We will meet at the Torpedo Factory Art Center located at 105 North Union Street, Alexandria, Virginia. The art center is located on the waterfront at the intersection of King and Union Streets.

Street parking is available and there are several parking garages in the area. Please carpool with only family members or those within your extended “bubble,” wear masks when deemed appropriate, and ensure that you remain six feet away from other visitors.

The following equipment is recommended: Tripod, Wide angle, standard and telephoto lenses, and a shutter release.

We hope that you can join us!

Tammy Tideswell and Steven Glintz  
Field Trip Coordinators 2020-2021

### November Field Trip - Great Falls, Maryland

Fifteen NVPS members spent time on Saturday November 14th capturing images at the Great Falls National Park in Maryland. Check out some of the images our talented photographers made.



Jack Ledgerwood



Jack taken by Rena



Ken Lee



Len Johnson



Michael Mannix



Rena Schild



Roland Fabia



Tammy Tideswell



Steve Glintz

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## Portfolio Project

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The Portfolio Project is moving along, and some participants have started to upload images. This year is going to be another treat for the membership when we have our reviews.

For our portfolio participants, once you have decided on a subject it's time to write your **Artist Statement**. Doing so will make image selection and all that follows much easier. The

Artist Statement is your opportunity to engage and enlighten the viewer, and to offer insight into the portfolio through a description of the subject matter and why it is important to you.

An Artist Statement is not a biography, a list of accomplishments or a catalogue of works. Remember that brevity is the soul of wit; we recommend that your Artist Statement be no more than 100 words.

The Portfolio Gallery at the NVPS website is a great place to read Artist Statements from past years to get a feel for how they are constructed. Another good resource is the article in Lenswork issue #103, Nov-Dec 2012 found on the NVPS website on the Portfolio Project Page and at [Writing an Artist's Statement](#).

To sign up for the project just email the co-chairs at [Portfolio Project](#) and let us know you are interested. We will set up a DropBox folder for you and help with any questions you have.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Ginger Werz-Petrica, Willa Siegel, Brenda Wilson  
Program Co-Chairs

## **Photography Close to Home**

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### **Shooting Birds from a Kayak by Michele Dandrea Lowell**

If you are a bird photographer, getting out on the water offers lots of great photo opportunities. Fortunately, there are plenty of places to rent kayaks. The purchase of inflatable kayaks this past spring resulted in some great times for my family during this most notorious year. Being outside, getting exercise on the water while enjoying the beauty and wildlife nurtured our souls, energized our bodies and lifted our spirits. I carried my camera and one or two lens in a dry bag fastened to the kayak for safety.

Wading birds like herons and egrets along with predators like osprey and bald eagles hunt and nest along waterways where you can't always access on foot. Bald eagles and ospreys tend to roost in trees at the water's edge either resting between hunts, eating or protecting their territory. Opportunities abound for ducks and double breasted cormorants out on the water as well. With practice, you can learn to anticipate their takes offs and landings to get a good shot.

Kayaking allows you to quietly approach the bird as well as adjust your location for best light and composition. Sitting at water level gives you an eye level perspective when they are wading, landing, hunting or swimming. If you are lucky you'll find an active nest and eagles and osprey couples tend to return to the same nests each year.

It is a balancing act to get close enough for the shot but not too close as birds scare off easily. If you see them looking at you, back off. Just like you should not walk

straight toward a bird, neither should you paddle straight toward them if you can help it. I prefer a 500mm lens (Nikon 500mm F5.6) for shooting birds out on the water as it allows you some great magnification at distance. I have found that once the larger birds like a heron fill my frame, I am typically as close as the most tolerant will allow. Most will not let you get that close. Even eagles and ospreys safely high up in a tree will fly off quickly. I have not had much luck adding a 1.4x extender to my 500mm lens due to boat movement making focusing and framing difficult. Shooting at 1000th of a second and higher will yield the best results if you are trying to stop the action.

If you can go out with a partner in a tandem kayak you can take turns keeping the boat in position while the other shoots. Or if you are super lucky you have a spouse or partner who will control the kayak from the back while you shoot to your heart's content in the front.

I have 3 favorite places to share for the purpose of shooting birds from a kayak. All 3 have rentals available when in season. All three are best when the tide is on the high side.

Mason Neck State Park is in Lorton, VA on Belmont Bay off the Potomac River. It is pretty much a slam dunk for bald eagle sightings. If you turn right from the launch and go into Kane's Creek you'll eventually come to an eagle's nest on the left bank. As recently as last week, the adult pair were roosting together in a tree. Earlier this summer I saw one juvenile near the nest.

Pohick Bay Regional Park is also in Lorton not far from Mason Neck on the Pohick Bay off the Potomac River. Bearing left from the launch will take you to some narrow, shallower grassy areas toward Pohick Creek. This is an opportunity to photograph wading Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets as well as Double Crested Cormorants in action. Eagles and ospreys can often be found in the trees.

A hidden gem is Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge in the vicinity of Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge, VA. It is currently only accessible by small craft. It is on the Occoquan Bay off the Potomac River. To access it, rent or launch your kayak from Hampton's Landing Boat Marina on Neabsco Creek. You can also access it from Leesylvania State Park but it is a longer paddle. An osprey nest is just off the Hampton's Landing dock on a piling that you'll pass as you exit the launch dock. When active, you have ample opportunities to catch them in action. There was nesting activity this summer, there may have been babies but I never laid eyes on them.

Exiting the Hampton's Landing boat launch head right. Next, paddle under the train trestle then bear left and follow the water's edge up the bay. Look for a left into Farm Creek, ideally carry a map or look on your phone navigation as it is not easy to find the first time. The tide and amount of grasses will determine how far you can go up Farm Creek. Only once, so far, have we been able to go all the way through Farm



Creek thanks to high tide during late autumn after the grasses had died back. It is a beautiful paddle up Farm Creek which you typically have all to yourself. There is a noisy Great Blue Heron rookery that you'll hear long before you see it. You'll see cormorants, bald eagles and ospreys. Winter brings in the ducks and you will notice a few freshly adorned blinds which the ducks smartly avoid.

If it is too windy to head out past the train trestle, make a left from the marina and explore Neabsco Creek. There are lots of grasses, calm water, muskrat dens and the whole host of birds to shoot. If the tide is high enough you can make it to the Julie J. Metz Neabsco Creek Boardwalk which is a worthy destination on its own.

I hope this helps give you some ideas and encouragement to get out on the water, away from crowds and enjoy the beautiful bays and waterways we have so close to us.

Below are some photos and more can be found on my website: [Michelle's Web Site](#)

Michele Dandrea Lowell





## Member Awards

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Bob Friedman's nighttime image of the Vietnam Memorial was selected for Glen Echo's *A Walk in the Park* online exhibition.

### [A Walk in the Park](#)

Photoworks is fortunate to have a national treasure in our own backyard, the glorious Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, and the Potomac River. This National Historical Park is a true treasure in the DMV area. This exhibition captures the rich and diverse wildlife and the dynamic landscapes that exist within the DMV area.



Georgette Grossman's *Cherry Blossoms* will appear on the Honorable Mentions page in Burke & Herbert's 2021 Calendar.



Bob Friedman's image of a kayaker running the Great Falls will appear in Burke & Herbert's 2021 Calendar as an Honorable Mention picture.



Doug O'Boyle had four images selected for the Burke & Herbert Bank's 2021 Calendar. Here are two of the images.

You can see the images chosen for the calendar at: [Burke & Herbert Calendar](#)



Tana Ebbole's *Island Trees at Widewater* was selected for Glen Echo's *Walk in the Park* virtual exhibition.



Sidney Stone's *Secret Spot* was juried into Photoworks *Walk in the Park* online exhibition.

## **NVPS Website Changes**

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Mike Whalen and the NVPS Web Team have been busy making improvements to the NVPS website – NVPS.ORG. Recently they made two changes to the NVPS Galleries folder structure. The gallery can be found at: [NVPS Gallery](#)

1. The team merged the archived galleries (also known as **Older Galleries**) into their respective folder's current galleries. For example, now there is only a single "Portfolio Project" gallery that has both new and older portfolios in one place (2008-2020, [Portfolio Project](#)). The same is true for the Monthly Competitions and Field Trip galleries. Also note that the menu item **Older Galleries** no longer exists in either the website or gallery menus.

The rationale for making this change was to simplify the gallery structure and to make the superb images in the older galleries easier to reach. Also, since all the

galleries are in reverse chronological order, the newest added images will always be on top and therefore the most visible.

Links to the older galleries don't exist anymore. If you find any references in older competition, field trip or portfolio posts, let the webteam know and we will fix them ([webteam@nvps.org](mailto:webteam@nvps.org)).

2. Also, in addition to the 5 existing categories (Monthly Competition Winners, Field-Trips, Portfolio Project, Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions, and End-Of-Year Awards), a 6<sup>th</sup> category called has been added: “**Special Projects**”. This will include images generated for other non-periodic events that may only occur once or for a limited time but none-the-less, significant. A new gallery has been added under Special Projects called “**Willing Warriors**” to show the fine images contributed by members to the WW retreat home in Haymarket Virginia ([NVPS Willing Warriors](#)). The important work by Jim Sinsheimer and the members who contributed needed recognition

## **Workshop Offerings & Outside Competitions**

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Speakers and competition judges for NVPS are offered the opportunity to have notices about up-coming tours and workshops in *FotoFax* for **two years** after the date of their NVPS program.

### **Joseph Miller Abstract Exhibit**

The Joseph Miller Center for the Photographic Arts once again takes great pride in announcing its **ELEVENTH ANNUAL** juried abstract exhibit. All interested photographers are invited to submit entries for this much anticipated spring event. Over the years, because of the influence these exhibits have had in encouraging and promoting abstract photography and due to their reputation, recent JM Abstract Exhibits have been attracting entries from international as well as national photographic artists. Whereas submissions to the First Annual JM Abstract Exhibit had been limited to local NVACC-related clubs, many current participants come from photographic groups outside the Greater Washington Northern Virginia area or are non-affiliated independent photographic artists.

The Joseph Miller Center will begin accepting entries for the upcoming **ELEVENTH ANNUAL EXHIBIT** on **Saturday, December 26, 2020**.

The deadline for submissions will be **Saturday, February 27, 2021**.

The show will run from Saturday May 1, 2021 through Monday May 31, 2021.



A detailed **PROSPECTUS** containing all relevant information regarding the exhibit can be found on the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs website @ [www.NVACC.org](http://www.NVACC.org)

### Kristi Odom & Darren Gustaveson

Kristi and Darren are also passionate educators that are focused on the personal development of all who travel with them. Their lessons include topics ranging from voice development to advanced camera techniques. Through Four Corners Workshops Kristi and Darren are currently offering exciting adventures over the next year. **Conservation in The Amazon 2020:** Travel to the Bolivian Amazon to learn about conservation while staying in a wildlife sanctuary which houses over 700 rescued animals and 60 different species. From there, travel to the Amazon to experience wildlife in their natural habitat and learn about trafficking and conservation efforts. **An Adventure Through New Zealand:** Travel around the South Island and experience wildlife like the acrobatic dusky dolphins and the friendly sea lions. Then play around with landscape photography capturing some of the most epic scenery in the world, to name one, the famous Milford Sound. This adventure has a little of everything and a lot of photo opportunities. Visit [fourcornersworkshops.com](http://fourcornersworkshops.com) or sign up for our newsletter for more information.

*For more information and to learn about more adventure opportunities, please visit:  
<https://www.fourcornersworkshops.com/adventures>*

### Marie Joabar



**Capital Photography Center** is the DC area's top source for Photography Classes. Join Marie Joabar and her crew of talented photographers for classes In-Person or Online and take your photography to the next level. You can find them at [Capital Photography Center](#) and [Online Capital Photography Center](#).

### Denise Silva

**Denise Silva** has often judged and been a presenter at NVPS. She operates Road Runner Photography Tours. For information on their latest tours and workshops, please visit their web site at <http://roadrunnerphotographytours.com>

### Nikhil Bahl

**Nikhil Bahl** was our End-of-Year judge for 2016-2017 as well as Program Speaker in November 2015 and November 2016. He offers a variety of workshops and coaching events. For more details with his latest workshop updates, visit: [www.NikhilBahl.com](http://www.NikhilBahl.com)

**Roy Sewall**

Roy Sewall was our Judge in February 2018 and was our Program speaker in May 2017. Roy offers both private and group instruction to novice and intermediate photographers, and in 2014 became an instructor for the Capital Photography Center. Find out more on Roy's website: <http://www.roysewallphotography.com/iWeb/Home.html>

**David Blecman**

David Blecman, a member of the Professional Photographers of America, is an internationally recognized photographer and instructor, having taught in over a dozen countries to photographers, models, and makeup artists. He was our judge in October 2015 and April 2017 and a Program speaker in April 2016. David's website: <http://posneg.com/>

**Don Rosenberger**

Don has been a regular presenter at NVPS. He started a new Meetup. Check it out at <https://www.meetup.com/Fairfax-DC-Metro-Area-Photography-Meetup/>

**Colleen Miniuk**

Take your photography skills, passion for the outdoors, and love for adventure to the next level! Combining Colleen's enthusiasm for learning and helping others - and life itself! - her educational and inspirational photography workshops give photographers of all levels a supportive environment to explore their craft and their own creative talents in awe-inspiring surroundings. Colleen help you develop your internal artist by fine-tuning your skills, techniques, and approaches, both technically and creatively, to enable you to become a more competent, confident, and expressive photographer. For more information and to register, visit [www.colleenminiuk.com](http://www.colleenminiuk.com). To see her all-women's photography workshops, visit [www.sheography.com](http://www.sheography.com).