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FOTOFAX

NEWSLETTER
OF THE
NORTHERN
VIRGINIA
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

**“Oatlands Maple
in Fall”**

by
Carla Steckley



FOTOFax is the newsletter of the

NORTHERN VIRGINIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
NVPS

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NVPS members wishing to author articles, provide content, announce awards they have received, or communicate shows in which they have images should write to the email for “**Editors**” on [Board Contacts](#).

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MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**



Deb Rose

“My interest in photography is not to capture an image I see or even have in my mind, but to explore the potential of moments I can only begin to imagine.”

Lois Greenfield

Welcome to our 2024–2025 Club year!

This is NVPS’s 60th club year since its inception in 1965. We have wonderful programs, learning, and opportunities planned for us this year by our board and dedicated volunteers.

We continually strive to create a community where photographers can learn, explore, and develop their creative vision. As we launch into our new club year, what is it you can imagine for yourself? What is it you would like to learn for your photography?

Perhaps you would like to be part of Portfolio Project or collaborate with a mentor? Would you like to learn more about a technique or how to better utilize your camera? Would you like to explore editing software and utilize it to elevate and enhance your photos? These are all part of our offerings this club year, along with so much more.

We will again have our Programs and six of our monthly Competitions online via Zoom. This allows us to learn from photographers across the country with Programs and hear feedback from other photographers who serve as judges. We will have our Education and Training, Member’s Gallery and Member’s Forum, and three in–person competitions with prints, at the Dunn Loring Fire Hall. We strongly encourage you to come to our in–person meetings, as you are able, to interact directly with your photographic community. Each in–person meeting will offer you the opportunity to review images with club volunteers and ask questions you might have.

Also, before our in–person meetings, you are invited to join the NVPS Dinner and a Meeting, an opportunity to have a meal together with other members, presenters, and judges. We will send out an email with restaurant locations and times prior to each in–person meeting.

Thank you to our incredible team of volunteers and board members, who are making this all happen for us!

Being a part of NVPS provides you these opportunities and more, to realize all that you can imagine.

During the year, if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer to support the club, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the board at [Board Contacts](#).

Deb Rose
President
2024–2025

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Judy Guenther



Happy 60th birthday, NVPS!

Welcome back to this celebratory birthday year for the Northern Virginia Photographic Society—60 years since the club was established. I hope you have had a photographically productive summer with adventures, family reunions, classes, vacations, or just the time needed to post-process your work.

Hopefully, you know about the great opportunity to enter the Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions (MAPV) juried photography show which will be held in conjunction with the first in-person MAPV Exposition in four years. If you're new to NVPS, please check out this superb opportunity to hear some of the country's best photo educators and leaders in person on November 3–4 at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas. Besides presentations, there will be opportunities for hands-on workshops for light-painting, macro, raptors, and in-camera abstracts, so plan on bringing your cameras. And! There will be several vendors at the site with special deals for attendees.

Check out page 27 in this issue to see all the information for MAPV. The last day to enter photos for the juried show is September 8. Thanks to our NVPS MAPV rep, Jack Ledgerwood, for managing this activity for us. You'll need to print your images for this show and deliver them to Jack by October 29. This is a great incentive for you to attend our in-person NVPS meetings between October 4 when accepted images are announced and the deadline to deliver your prints by October 29.

For more incentive to enter this show and to help you prepare images for printing, Wayne Guenther will be presenting the September E&T on the timely topic of "Before You Print."

Don't miss the guest article by Debra Mastronardi on "Chasing Storms" on page 20. She has beautiful images and many suggestions on the equipment you need and how to go about finding this amazing subject matter.

I know you all have great images from the last few years of your excursions and travels and I look forward to seeing them in MAPV and also in our upcoming NVPS monthly competitions. If you've been reluctant to enter our competitions, now is the time to gain the experience of anonymous feedback and to share your images with the club.

Please take a moment to look at page 31 in this edition of FotoFax to familiarize yourself with our elected board members for 2024–2025. These folks will be working very hard this year to provide members with outstanding educational opportunities. Look at their headshots and introduce yourself at an upcoming in-person meeting. I would also encourage you to look at the Photographic Society of America (PSA) information which is on that page.

Judy Guenther
Editor

CLUB CALENDAR

NVPS conducts meetings every Tuesday evening September—May. Program meetings and digital-only Competitions are virtual and Zoom links are sent out the day of the meeting. Information regarding in-person Education & Training, Member's Gallery and Forum, and digital and print Competition meetings will be shared as well. The NVPS meetings and events for the next three months are listed below. Please check the [NVPS Calendar](#) for up-to-date information.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday	3	PROGRAM: Mollie Isaacs—Rediscover Your Creative Core (Zoom)
Tuesday	10	EDUCATION & TRAINING: Wayne Guenther—Before You Print (In Person)
Tuesday	17	COMPETITION: Lisa Cuchara—Theme: None (Digital) (Zoom)
Tuesday	24	MEMBER'S GALLERY: Print: Lidia Slominski—A Little Bit of Everything (In Person) MEMBER'S GALLERY: Virtual: Catherine Wang—Dance and Architecture (In Person) MEMBER'S FORUM: Don Smith—Kyoto Gardens—Tips for Fall Foliage Photography (In Person)
Saturday	28	FIELD TRIP: Old Town Farmers' Market, VA (rain date September 29) (In Person)

OCTOBER

Tuesday	1	PROGRAM: TBA—TBA (Zoom)
Tuesday	8	EDUCATION & TRAINING: Bring Your Camera and Prints Night (In Person)
Tuesday	15	COMPETITION: Samantha Stephens—Theme: None (Digital) (Zoom)
Saturday	19	FIELD TRIP: National Capital Trolley Museum, MD (no rain date) (In Person)
Tuesday	22	MEMBER'S GALLERY: Print: Gaetana Ebbola—The Fun of Handmade Books (In Person) MEMBER'S GALLERY: Virtual: Nancy Galeb—Wildlife, Landscape, Macro—My Photo Journey (In Person) MEMBER'S FORUM: Wayne Wolfersberger—The Best of Iceland in a Day (In Person)
Tuesday	29	EDUCATION & TRAINING: Stan Bysshe—Here Comes the Judge! (In Person)

NOVEMBER

Sat–Sun	2–3	MID-ATLANTIC PHOTO VISIONS: Annual Meeting (In Person)
Tuesday	5	PROGRAM: TBA—TBA (Zoom)
Saturday	9	FIELD TRIP: TBA (In Person)
Tuesday	12	EDUCATION & TRAINING: Kimxuan Nguyen—Long Exposure Photography (In Person)
Tuesday	19	COMPETITION: Sandi Croan—Theme: None (Digital and Prints) (In Person)
Tuesday	26	MEMBER'S GALLERY: Print: John Olsen—TBA (In Person) MEMBER'S GALLERY: Virtual: Jim Sinsheimer—TBA (In Person) MEMBER'S FORUM: Ginger Werz—Petricka—TBA (In Person)

2024–2025 Member Dues

There are always benefits to paying your NVPS dues earlier rather than later!

In 2024, all Mid–Atlantic Photo Visions (MAPV) submissions (Nature and Fine Arts) will be in digital format. To be eligible to enter images, you must be a club member in good standing, meaning that you must be current in your membership dues. Jack Ledgerwood will compare our list of paid members against the submissions he receives to verify that you qualify. So please pay your dues before you submit to MAPV.

We continue to provide members who compete in monthly competitions a grace period to pay their dues. For those competing in the September 17 competition, the grace period ends October 1. Please note that awards/points received in the September competition will be removed for members who have not paid their dues by October 1.

Early payment identifies you as an active member of NVPS and allows us to better serve your needs.

Membership dues for the 2024–2025 year are as follows:

- ▶ Individual \$55
- ▶ Family \$75
- ▶ Student \$20

There are currently two methods of payment. Checks are preferred by NVPS:

- ▶ Check: make out your check to NVPS. Complete and print out the [Membership Application](#). (Please mail both to our Treasurer, Tom Brett, 4216 Wynnwood Dr, Annandale, VA, 22003)
- ▶ PayPal: use [this link](#) on our website and scroll down to the PayPal button: PayPal–Link. Please note that NVPS must pay a fee for this method of payment.

Our new season begins on Tuesday, September 3. We look forward to seeing you on Zoom!



Stay Connected with NVPS

If you are on Facebook, please join the NVPS private group. Search on Northern Virginia Photographic Society Social Group and request to join. Members post everything from their photos to interesting articles on photography.

SEPTEMBER 3 (ZOOM)

Mollie Isaacs

Rediscover Your Creative Core

Mollie Isaacs is a professional photographer who specializes in Nature, Wildlife, Flowers, Birds, and Abstracts. She is passionate about photography and loves to share that passion by teaching others. Early in her career she studied with Ansel Adams and Joyce Tenneson. She has won the Kodak Gallery Award 14 times, considered by some to be the “Oscar” of photography. Her work is in the Permanent Collection of the International Photography Hall of Fame, and has been exhibited at Epcot Center in Disney World and Grand Central Terminal in NYC. She runs Awake The Light Photo Workshops & Tours, offers online Webinars, and personally leads photo workshops around the country and beyond. Read more about her and see her work on [Awake The Light](#).



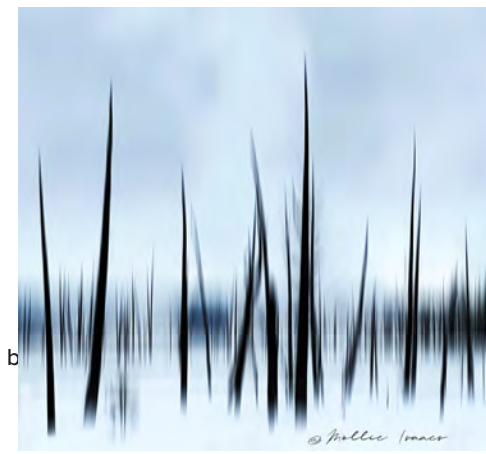
Mollie Isaacs

Great images require more than just tripping the shutter at the right time. They come from inside of YOU—your skills, your talents, and your creativity. Every child is creative, but somehow we lose some of that creativity as we grow up. This program will help you rediscover that creative child that lives within you. Mollie will help you learn how to:

- ▶ Become more observant and look at the world around you with fresh eyes
- ▶ Use Light as a creative tool



by Mollie Isaacs



by Mollie Isaacs

(Programs continued)

- ▶ Use Shutter Speeds and Camera Angles as creative tools
- ▶ Always be ready for the unusual or unique
- ▶ Make simple post-processing techniques your best friend

Regardless of what you enjoy photographing—flowers, birds, abstracts, wildlife, landscapes, macro, or any other subjects—this program will help you be more creative in your approaches.

You will come away with easy, yet powerful techniques to help elevate your photography to a higher level, whether you are an experienced photographer or a novice.

Mollie specializes in nature, wildlife, flowers, birds, and abstracts. She is passionate about photography and loves to share that passion by teaching others.



by Mollie Isaacs



by Mollie Isaacs

SEPTEMBER 17 (IN PERSON)

Wayne Guenther

Before You Print

Wayne Guenther began his photography avocation in the late 1960s and became increasingly involved with Art Photography in the mid-1990s. Membership in Gallery West and the Art League (both in Alexandria) nudged him to regularly create new work and develop a style. In 2009 he was a charter member and President of the Workhouse Photography Group (Lorton) and remained active there until 2012 when he fully retired. Wayne joined NVPS in 2015. He has been accepted in many regional juried art competitions/shows over the past 25 years and has placed in numerous NVPS monthly competitions.



Wayne Guenther

Wayne photographed with Nikon equipment for many years until the aggregate weight on his back and shoulders became problematic. He switched to the micro-four-thirds system in 2014 and uses the Olympus System and Olympus lenses. His web site is [Wayne Guenther Photography](http://WayneGuentherPhotography.com).

The overwhelming volume of photographs these days are viewed digitally on a screen. You upload to social media yourself without much thought of file size (around 1000px) and resolution (72dpi) because it looks fine on the screen. If you want to print, however, you must consider many more things from capture to editing, and matting and framing, to create a digital file that will print beautifully for competition or decoration. This is a costly endeavor whether you print yourself or use a commercial service, but the key to cost control is standardization. He will discuss how to select two or three image sizes that will scale to fit two or three standard mats and frames, allowing for purchase of pre-cut mats and backing, glass, and frame rails. Once the event that required the print is over and if the piece is returned to you, remove the print from the mat and reuse the mat/backing for the next requirement. He will demonstrate how he places prints in mats and safely removes them later, and a way to attach information about you and the print that can be removed without damaging the backing. Lastly, he will talk about commercial printing service, pros and cons of buying a printer, and display different papers with the same printed image.

2024–2025 Competition Rules

In 2024–2025, NVPS will continue the transition back to in-person meetings that will include prints in three of the monthly competitions. The following temporary rules of competition will be in effect for the entire 2024–2025 club year. All current rules that are not affected or changed by the 2024–2025 rule changes shall remain the same.

Three of the nine monthly competitions will be held in person at the Dunn Loring Fire House where members may submit up to two images in these options—one digital and one print, or two print images. In all cases the category must be one color and one monochrome in the respective classes (Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced).

The same image cannot be submitted in both categories. The digital monochrome and digital color categories will be judged separately. Color and monochrome prints will be judged as a combined category for the Novice and Intermediate classes and as separate categories for the Advanced class.

The remaining six monthly competitions will be all-digital submissions with judging conducted over the Zoom app. Members may submit up to two images—one monochrome and one color in the respective classes (Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced). The same image cannot be submitted in both categories.

In all competitions, when fewer than four images are submitted in any class/category, the judge may award one honorable mention if he/she feels it is warranted.

Co-VP's for NVPS Competitions for 2024–2025 are Janice Kane and Art Rose.

The complete competition rules and temporary changes made for this year can be found at [NVPS Competition Rules](#). Complete competition information can be found at [NVPS Competitions](#). Have questions? Write to “Competitions” on [Board Contacts](#).

Here are descriptions of the three themed competitions for the 2024–2025 NVPS calendar year:

Motion (December 2024)—This theme tasks us to display motion as the dominant subject of our images. The motion could be of a person or persons, an animal or animals, a moving man-made object, water, or practically anything that is moving. Let your creativity shine through!



Water Motion (slow shutter causes silky appearance)

2024–2025 Competition Rules (continued)

Self–Portrait (February 2025)—As photographers, we always photograph behind the lens, except when we take a “selfie” with our cell phones. Creating self–portraits will move us out in front of our own lens, and beyond the selfie as we turn the camera around to develop our portraiture skills.

No selfies for this theme! Selfies are described as “simple photos that can be easily taken without a lot of planning.” True portraits require preparation, planning, and time.

As you create your self–portrait, consider your location, lighting, and composition that will capture a moment that portrays you.

Remember, the photo needs to be taken by you, not someone else pushing the shutter, so get

out those remotes, use your camera’s timer, say “cheese,” and have fun!

Texture (April 2025)—Texture is described as the visual or tactile/touchable appearance of something. This theme challenges you to capture a photo with a clearly dominant subject that features texture that can be felt through the presentation of the image.



Self–Portrait (using 2 second shutter timer)



Texture in Sand

SEPTEMBER 17 (ZOOM)

Lisa Cuchara

No Theme

Lisa Cuchara, PhD, OM SYSTEM Ambassador, Master Craftsman (PPA), Master of Artistry (PPA), Master of Photography (PPA), HonNEC, is very passionate about photography and enjoys both being behind the lens and in the digital darkroom. She loves to photograph nature but finds many subjects equally intriguing. She appreciates the world around her and embraces the challenge of interpreting what her eyes see, and her heart feels, via her photographs.

Lisa met her husband Tom through photography, and they are both very active in many local, national, and international photography organizations. They have a photography studio for teaching photography as well as for portraits. They have had many successful gallery exhibitions, their work has been accepted into numerous juried exhibitions, and their images have won awards at the local, state, national, and international levels. Their photographs have appeared in Adirondack Life, Wild Bird, Birder's World, on calendar pages and covers, and on the cover of a fictional paperback novel. They have published two books with Amherst Media—[“Create Fine Art Photographs from Historic Places and Rusty Things”](#) which is about their HDR and light painted images and [“The Frog Whisperer.”](#)

They have presented a wide variety of motivational and instructional programs in person and via zoom to many photography groups/conventions. They also teach photography and post-processing and lead photo tours. They would love to have an opportunity to inspire you with their “Creativity is contagious, pass it on” philosophy and their “Don't shoot what it looks like, shoot what it feels like” approach. They love to teach, mentor, motivate, and inspire, and hope that their passion and creativity will inspire you to capture beautiful photons and manipulate pixels with impact. Check them out at [PhotographyByLisaAndTom](#) and join their email list.



Lisa Cuchara

SEPTEMBER 24—PRINT (IN PERSON)

Lidia Slominski

A Little Bit of Everything

I Am

by Lidia Slominski

I am a mother, a wife, a daughter,
Devoted to my Family.

I am a speck of dust in the immensity
of
the Universe.

I am an artist, a writer,
an Army professional, loyal to my country.

I am a name on an endless list.
I am All, and Nothing.
I Am.



Lidia Slominski

As an artist, Lidia is self-taught. Art is her way to express her views of the world around her without using words. She always loves taking photos—she feels inspired every time she looks around, whether alone, with her family, or at work, by anything and everything. She creates stories around the photographs that she takes. Lidia looks at them as life scenes and uses them as inspiration for her paintings. When she creates a photographic series, she sometimes tells the story in a poem. Her first



by Lidia Slominski

(Member's Gallery continued)

painting was inspired by her professional mentor calling her a “tall poppy” and by childhood memories. Creating her first painting inspired a series of photographs that featured poppies.

As far as showcasing her work, she usually gives her photographs or paintings as gifts to friends as a memento of a memory they share. However, she has participated in a few events where she sold her art or raised funding for events. Most recently, she was the featured artist of May, 2023, at the Darbytown Art Studio in Fredericksburg. Lidia also earned awards and various photography group recognitions, such as Top Image of the Month with the NOVA Macro/Nature Photography VA–DC–MD, January, 2021, (run by Lori Lankford), Second Place, two Honorable Mentions and a Merit Award at the 2022 Annual Fredericksburg Photography Show, and most recently Second Place at the NVPS intermediate Color Monthly Competition of April, 2024. Lidia joined NVPS March, 2024.

The Window

By Lidia Slominski

A dark gloomy room,
Paint peeling off the walls.
Open doors, of closets and cabinets.
Empty now...Bearing memories of things,
And the people that the things belonged to.
A dirty, worn–out rug across the floor,
With stains of times past, and a musty odor.

An empty, abandoned room.
In an empty, abandoned building.
Cold and dark. A sanitarium, more precisely.

Suddenly, I feel the burden.
A burden of many, that now becomes mine...
Overwhelming and distant at the same time.

Lidia is a self–taught artist. She always loves taking photos—she feels inspired every time she looks around, whether alone, with her family, or at work, by anything and everything.

(Member's Gallery continued)

And then, I see the light seeping through.
Coming through a window,
That seems blocked by a brick wall.
As I walk past the door, the light becomes brighter.
The brick wall is fading, and my soul feels lighter.
A feeling of hope has taken over.
And I can go on...



by Lidia Slominski

SEPTEMBER 24—DIGITAL (IN PERSON)

Catherine Wang

Dance and Architecture

Catherine Wang is an International award-winning photographer based in the DMV area (DC, Maryland, Virginia), specializing in still life, architecture, portrait, and dance photography. Her work is also exhibited in many countries, such as UK, Switzerland, and Japan.

With eight years of experience, Catherine has developed a unique style that blends contemporary aesthetics with classic techniques.

Catherine's journey into photography began in 2016 when she got her first Nikon DSLR camera. Her skills took off in 2020 when COVID-19 started, allowing her to work remotely and giving her more time to dive into photography. Her work has been featured in numerous magazines, including Photo Vogue and 1x.com. Her awards include the Overall Winner, Alpha Female Awards, in the Sony World Photography Awards 2024; Shortlist, Object Category, in the Sony World Photography Awards 2023; 3rd place, Fine Art, in the International Black & White Photography Contest 2022; and Bronze, Fine Art, in the Tokyo International Foto Awards 2022. Her website is [Catherine Wang Photography](https://www.catherinewang.com).

When she's not behind the camera, Catherine enjoys reading, teaching photography workshops, and mentoring aspiring photographers. She believes in the power of photography to tell stories and evoke emotions, and she is dedicated to pushing the boundaries of her craft.



Catherine Wang



Catherine Wang—"Ya Ya"



Catherine Wang—"Chicago"

Dance and Architecture are two distinct, yet profoundly interconnected subjects in photography, each offering unique challenges and opportunities for creative expression. Capturing dance in photography involves freezing moments of fluid motion and translating the grace, power, and emotion of the dance into a still image—while architectural photography focuses on capturing the design, form, and aesthetics of buildings and structures. It emphasizes lines, shapes, patterns, and the relationship between different elements of the design. Can we find something in common between these two? Yes, it’s called “ART.” Both dance and architectural photography require a strong artistic vision. Photographers need to see beyond the obvious and capture unique perspectives that showcase their subjects in new and artistic ways. In her “Dance and Architecture” presentation, Catherine hopes the audience will find the unique connection hidden behind the photos.

Catherine specializes in still life, architecture, portrait, and dance photography. She has developed a unique style that blends contemporary aesthetics with classic techniques.



Catherine Wang—“Soar”



Catherine Wang—“Gugenheim”

SEPTEMBER 24 (IN PERSON)

Don Smith

Kyoto Gardens—Tips for Fall Foliage Photography

Don Smith spent his first 18 years in Omaha but has since lived in most parts of the United States and several countries in Asia and Europe. He was a journalist and taught Japanese and Korean history before taking a government job that allowed plenty of travel (and photography) opportunities. Mr. Smith first picked up a camera in grade school and dabbled in picture taking over the years but gradually got serious about photography after buying his first DSLR in Bangkok in about 2004. He has been to Kyoto several times before but last year was his first chance to visit with a decent camera (and without small children). Don and his wife, Tomoco, will be heading far west into retirement in 2025.



Don Smith

Mr. Smith was a Canon shooter until he found his DSLR getting heavier every year and switched to the mirrorless Fujifilm system, and he now shoots an XH-2. He loves travel photography, landscapes, and everything interesting. He has benefited



by Don Smith

(Member's Forum continued)

tremendously from the education and fellowship that NVPS offers since joining the club in 2014. He has managed to lose his files from China and Australia, but a sampling of his work from East, South, and Southeast Asia; Western, Central, and Eastern Europe; Israel; and North America is available at his website [Don Smith Photography](#).



by Don Smith



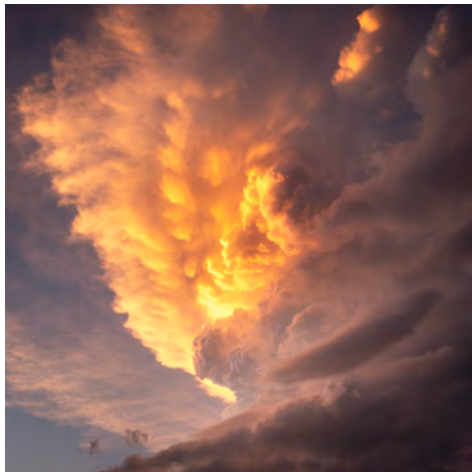
by Don Smith

Don first picked up a camera in grade school and dabbled in picture taking over the years but gradually got serious about photography after buying his first DSLR in Bangkok in 2004.

Debra Mastronardi

Chasing Storms

Storm-chasing photography is a thrilling and visually captivating pursuit that involves tracking and capturing the raw power of nature's most intense weather phenomena. When chasing a storm, you venture into the heart of severe storms, aiming to document stunning images of tornadoes, lightning strikes, and supercells. This genre of photography requires not only a deep understanding of weather patterns and forecasting but also a great deal of patience, quick reflexes, and technical camera skill. The results can be breathtaking—dramatic cloud formations, vivid



by Debra Mastronardi



by Debra Mastronardi

lightning bolts, and the sheer scale of storm systems provide a sense of awe and respect for nature's power.

Using a professional storm chaser and a photo instructor is the best and safest way to track and shoot storms. I've enjoyed two workshops with [Action Photo Tours](#) to capture storms. My first workshop was Storms and Saguaros in July, 2022. The main focus of this workshop was the monsoon season in the Tucson, AZ, area with an emphasis on capturing lightning strikes. My second workshop was this past June where Action Photo Tours partnered with [Tempest Tours](#) to chase tornados in Tornado Alley. The focus of this workshop was to find storms that had the best chance of producing a tornado and capturing supercells.

Although both workshops are considered storm chasing, they are vastly different workshops



Debra Mastronardi

(Guest Article continued)

when it comes to logistics. This is a major consideration you need to think about before deciding on a workshop. With Storms and Saguaros, you have a home base in Tucson and each day begins around 1:00 p.m. since most storms don't get started until the late afternoon and continue into the night. The advantage of this workshop is you stay at one hotel with a pretty consistent daily schedule making it easy to get rest, process photos, and have normal meals. The driving time was usually under two hours to each destination.



by Debra Mastronardi



by Debra Mastronardi



by Debra Mastronardi

The Tornado Alley workshop started in Denver and then we hit the road for eight days! You spend the majority of your day in a van traveling to the next potential big storm. There is no home base, every night you are in a different town, and you are unpacking and packing up every day. There is little to no time for photo processing, and you are on the gas station and fast-food diet. On our first day, we spent 15 hours driving and covered 710 miles! Most days begin around 8:00 a.m. and end after 11:00 p.m. We covered 3,000 miles and five different states— Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. This type of travel can be very taxing and when you are in the chase, there is no stopping for bio breaks or food. It's typically "go time" from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and most nights there wasn't any time for dinner.

The other major logistical difference between the two workshops is the time you have to capture images. In the tornado workshop, many times it was a quick scramble out of the vans on the side of the road with five minutes of hand-held shooting. You need to move quickly, get your settings right, and quickly get back into the van when they say, "In the van, now!" If you are not comfortable shooting landscapes without a tripod, you should practice hand-held shooting before choosing this workshop.

The techniques and equipment necessary for capturing both lightning and tornados are basically the same. As for equipment, you need a sturdy tripod, the usual suspects for lenses—wide

(Guest Article continued)

(14–35mm), mid (50–100 mm) and telephoto (100–400 mm), a neutral density (ND) filter 3 stops, a polarizer, wired cable release, and, most importantly, a [Lightning Trigger](#) to capture daytime lightning.

To capture lightning during the day, you attach the lightning trigger to the hot shoe and plug it into the camera. Before turning it on, you compose the scene, acquire focus, set the shutter speed to 1/4 second or longer, and set your aperture setting to achieve the slower shutter speed. If you can't get to 1/4 second on your shutter speed, you can use an ND filter or polarizer to achieve these settings. Then you wait for the lightning show to begin as the trigger senses optical flash pulses and triggers your shutter. Daytime lightning is the most difficult to capture and the lightning trigger has about a 50% capture rate. When the trigger is active, you can't review your images since basically the trigger takes over the camera. To check your images, you need to shut off the trigger and inevitably this is when the best lightning strike happens!



by Debra Mastronardi

However, if you don't stop and check, you could have a bunch of out of focus or over/under exposed photos. Mitigating the risks outweighs the missed lightning bolt.

Nighttime lightning is much easier and more dramatic. The technique used is very simple. Set the camera on manual everything including focus, set shutter speed to 2 to 10 seconds, attach the cable release, set drive mode to continuous shooting, and lock in the cable release to continually take shots. You will have hundreds of black screen photos and a few with lightning strikes. Use your largest capacity memory card and a fully charged battery. The most difficult aspect of nighttime lightning is acquiring manual focus in the pitch black. Usually there is a distant light or a star that can help you acquire focus. You also need to have a good command of your camera settings and buttons as it is difficult to adjust settings in the dark.



by Debra Mastronardi

On the Tornado Alley workshops, we had several opportunities to capture supercells.

(Guest Article continued)

Capturing supercells requires panoramic shots. The best way I found was to take multiple portrait shots of the supercell. To do this type of shooting, your exposure needs to be the same for each image and you need to be at the same level with the horizon for each photo. Shots should have a 50 percent overlap to ensure a smooth stitching. Practice this technique hand-held since many times you will not have the luxury of a tripod. You can stitch the photos together in the develop module of Lightroom using the “Photo>Photo Merge>Panorama” function.

I thoroughly enjoyed both workshops and they were amazing experiences with a great group of photographers and storm chasers. I would take the Storms and Saguaros workshop again in the blink of an eye. The Tornado Alley workshop was a once in a lifetime experience for me since I don't think I would want to spend all those hours in the van again.



by Debra Mastronardi



by Debra Mastronardi

SEPTEMBER 28 (IN PERSON)

Old Town Farmers' Market

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (rain date September 29)

The Old Town Farmers' Market held in front of city hall is the oldest farmers' markets held continuously at one site in the country. The [market](#), as well as the block around City Hall, offers lots of photographic opportunities for the street and urban photographer. Vendors will be tending to their stalls, shoppers will be scrutinizing the wares, and others will be out for a stroll, making this area a fun and target-rich environment. There's even more to see as you walk down King Street to the waterfront.

We'll meet at the southeast corner of the market (intersection of King St. and N. Fairfax St.) for our usual meet and greet. We'll explore the area around the market for a bit and then take a break at a nearby restaurant, [la Madeleine](#) (one block to the west). Once rested, you'll have a choice between venturing down to the waterfront or staying around the market. Feel free to join the trek or stay as long as you like.

Our club had a wonderful time when we last attended the market back in September, 2019. You can see pictures from that trip on the [NVPS Field Trips Gallery](#).

When:

- ▶ Saturday, September 28 from 8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. (rain date/no market: Sunday, September 29 from 8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.)



by Steven Glintz

Equipment and Notes:

- ▶ Most subjects won't be that far away. Lenses around 24–70mm will provide excellent results.
- ▶ Consider bringing a longer lens in the range of 70–200mm if you want more candid shots from a distance
- ▶ Don't forget your polarizer
- ▶ Tripods may be helpful as a creative tool but are not necessary
- ▶ Wear comfortable shoes

Where:

- ▶ 301 King St., Alexandria, VA
- ▶ Free underground parking is available at the Market Square Garage until 12:30 p.m. Access the garage at 108 N. Fairfax St. between Cameron and King St.
- ▶ Additional parking options are outlined on the [Alexandria City website](http://www.alexandriava.gov).

We hope you can join us!

Rena Schild and Steven Glintz
Field Trip Coordinators 2023–2024



by Stan Bysshe

Images from the Field Trips may be viewed at [NVPS Field Trips Gallery](http://www.nvps.org/gallery).

WHERE TO PARK IN OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

Parking Garages and Lots

Parking Garages		Parking Entrances	
1 S. Union St Garage 115 S. Union St \$15 flat rate (\$25 overnight) (additional cost may apply)	6 Market Square Garage 108 N. Fairfax St \$2/hr (\$10 daily max, \$5 evening/weekend max)	11 Tavern Square Garage 418 Cameron St \$3/hr (\$11 daily max, \$5 evening/weekend max), <i>closed Sunday</i>	Freedom House Museum
2 Thompson's Alley Garage 10 Thompson's Alley \$2/hr (\$10 daily max, \$5 evening/weekend max), overnight parking available (additional cost may apply)	7 Courthouse Square Garage 111 S. Pitt St \$2/hr (\$1/1hr after 5pm & wknds, \$10 daily max, \$5 evening/weekend max)	12 King St Garage 1150 Cameron St <i>temporarily closed</i>	Friendship Firehouse Museum
3 The Alexandrian Hotel Garage 104 S. Pitt St \$15 flat rate (\$30 overnight) (additional cost may apply)	8 N. Alfred St Garage 117 N. Alfred St \$5/hr (\$25 daily max)	13 Diagonal Rd Garage 1700 Diagonal Rd \$7/hr (daily max \$15), <i>closed weekends</i>	The Lyceum
4 Torpedo Factory Garage 102 N. Union St \$3/hr (\$10-\$23 daily max) - open 24/7	9 Hilton Hotel Garage 1767 King St \$6/hr (daily max \$14)	14 Edmundson Plaza Garage 1701 Duke St \$0/hr (daily max \$18, \$8 evening max), <i>closed weekends</i>	Durant Center/Jefferson Houston Elementary School
5 N. Union St Garage 220 N. Union St \$2/hr (\$10 daily max, \$5 evening/weekend max)	10 King St Station Garage 1800 Diagonal Rd \$9/hr (\$18 daily max, \$8 evening/weekend max)	15 Hotel Indigo Garage 220 S. Union St \$17 flat rate (\$39 overnight), <i>entrance on Duke St</i>	Gadsby's Tavern & Museum
16 The Strand Lot 206 Strand St \$10 flat rate before 2pm (\$20 flat rate after 2pm)	18 Cameron/St Asaph Lot 517 Cameron St \$2/hr (\$10 daily max, \$5 evening/weekend max)	20 Henry/Patrick Lot 116 S. Henry St \$2/hr (\$10 daily max, \$5 evening/weekend max)	Torpedo Factory Art Center
17 Queen/N. Lee Lot 300 N. Lee St \$10 flat rate, <i>evening/weekend hours only</i>	19 King St Lot 920 King St \$1.75/hr (3 hour max time)	21 Union Station 110 Callahan Dr \$2.50/hr (\$15 daily max)	Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum

🚶 Parking Entrances
🚗 Trolley/Bus Stops
🚲 Bikeshare
📍 Area Attractions

703.746.4311
www.alexandriava.gov/parking
 Rates as of May 2024

On-street parking is also available at metered spaces along King St and most side streets (\$1.75/hr for max of 2 or 3 hours). Please refer to specific restrictions on the signage for more details.

Mentorship Program



Stan Bysse



Bill Millhouser

The NVPS mentoring program can help you improve your skills by linking you with highly proficient club members who can provide assistance in particular aspects of photography. These include:

- ▶ Improving your understanding of your camera's controls
- ▶ Photographing various subjects, e.g., landscape, travel, nature/wildlife, macro/close-up, or portraits
- ▶ Use of post-processing software
- ▶ Printing and matting skills
- ▶ We can also arrange for mentors to review your images and suggest ways they can be improved.

Mentoring consultations can take place at NVPS club meetings, in the field, or at other

locations. We can also use online tools such as Zoom or FaceTime to facilitate the mentoring process. It's up to you and your mentor to decide how best to interact.

If you would like to learn from one of our mentors or have any questions about the program, please contact us at the address shown for **"Mentoring"** on [Board Contacts](#). We look forward to linking members with the mentor who is best suited to meet their needs.

We look forward to a successful mentoring program this year and appreciate your interest in keeping NVPS the best photography club in the region.

Bill Millhouser and Stan Bysse
NVPS Mentor Program Co-Managers



[Mid–Atlantic Photo Visions](#) (MAPV) is returning to an in–person event with speakers, workshops, photo exhibits, and vendors at the [Hylton Performing Arts Center](#) in Manassas, VA. There will also be two Zoom events that will occur within the two weeks prior to the in–person event.

[Passes for the event](#) are available for purchase from the MAPV website along with the full list of [speakers](#) and [schedule](#).

The **photo competition this year will continue to accept entries through September 8** in the following categories:

NATURE: (a total of 6 images may be entered)

- ▶ Birds
- ▶ Wildlife
- ▶ Macro/Close–up/Other
- ▶ Water
- ▶ Grand Landscapes
- ▶ Intimate Landscapes (new category)

PHOTO ART: (a total of 6 images may be entered)

- ▶ Architecture/Agriculture/Industry
- ▶ Abstracts/Altered Reality
- ▶ People (Includes Documentary and Street Photography)
- ▶ Studio Photography (Includes Studio Created Techniques and Still Lifes)
- ▶ Sports/Action/Adventure
- ▶ Other

Please be sure to read and understand the entry requirements and explanations of the different photography categories as images are sometimes rejected due to technical deficiencies or failure to meet individual

category requirements. The rules and other information may be found by clicking on [Mid–Atlantic Photo Visions Competitions](#).

The 2024 MAPV competition upload website opened on August 11. To be eligible, you must be a club member in good standing, i.e., having paid your membership dues. If you are a new member, please contact Jack Ledgerwood at the email for **“Mid–Atlantic Photo Visions”** found at [Board Contacts](#) so that an account can be created for you prior to submitting your images. To make sure you qualify, MAPV will compare our list of paid members against the submissions MAPV receives.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE:

- ▶ Sunday, August 11—Image upload opens for the competition
- ▶ Sunday, September 1—Last date to submit rejected images
- ▶ Sunday, September 8—Final deadline for image submission
- ▶ Friday, October 4—Accepted images are announced
- ▶ Tuesday, October 29—Last day for delivering juried prints to MAPV Rep

As a reminder, all juried images are **required** to be **printed** and **matted** for display and final judging. And the artist will be required to volunteer at the event.

Jack Ledgerwood
NVPS MAPV Representative

Member Announcements

Ilenia Alvarez' show titled "Hummingbirds" is on display at the [Beanetics Coffee Roasters](#) (7028 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA) through September 3. The next show will be by Sarah Blalock titled "Lotuses" from September 3 to October 15.

Outside Competitions

Smarter Entry—The website [Smarter Entry](#) is a valuable source of information for upcoming juried competitions with physical and virtual galleries all over the country. You can subscribe to their monthly newsletter which lists current openings.

CaFÉ—This website has an ongoing call for entries at [Call for Entry](#). You can sort your search for open opportunities many different ways.

EntryThingy—This is another management portal for entering competitions. The website is [EntryThingy](#).

ArtCall—A newer arts management organization for entering competitions is [ArtCall](#).

Workshop Offerings

NVPS offers speakers and competition judges the opportunity to have notices about upcoming tours and workshops in FotoFax for two years after the date of their NVPS program.

David Akoubian

[David Akoubian](#) has been a professional Nature Photographer since 1992 and has been leading workshops around the United States and Iceland for many years. His workshops are more than just about photography. Together with his teaching partner, he tries to give the experience of the area they are in. From staying on a barrier island off of the coast of Georgia, to rustic cabins in Wyoming's Grand Teton NP and in Alaska, the participants get a feel for life in the area. Workshops include ground transportation, lodging and most meals. Join David and experience a new area!

Alain Lázaro Gutiérrez Almeida

Alain Lazaro Gutierrez Almeda is a professional photographer who was born and raised in Havana, Cuba. Alain has created his own company "Thru Alain's Eyes" that designs, coordinates, and guides individualized tours that meet the legal requirements for Americans visiting Cuba. Alain's work can be seen on his [website](#).

Deborah Loeb Bohren

Deb's small-group online workshops and 1-to-1 mentoring programs are the perfect way to begin, build, or advance your photography skills and expand your creative vision. Classes range from ways to take your travel images beyond the postcard to photographic expressionism (think Intentional Camera Movement and multiple exposure), and from layers and blend modes in PS to creating abstract images with your mobile phone. Classes are limited to a maximum of 3-5 participants. For more information and to register visit [Traveling Lens Photo Tours](#).

Tim Coburn

A DC native, Tim Coburn is an accomplished photographer known for capturing the essence of his subjects. With over two decades of experience, Tim brings his well-honed sense of style, design, color, and light to every shoot. The resulting images are a testament to his skill and artistry. Visit [Tim Coburn Photography](#).

Lisa and Tom Cuchara

Known for their expertise in photography, Photoshop, and inspirational workshops, Lisa and Tom mentor in-person/via Zoom, present programs, lead photo tours, and are Wildside Tour leaders. They would love to have an opportunity to inspire you with their “Creativity is contagious, pass it on” philosophy and their “Don’t shoot what it looks like, shoot what it feels like” approach. They hope that their passion and creativity inspires you to capture beautiful photons and manipulate pixels with impact. [PhotographyByLisaAndTom](#)

Mollie Isaacs

Mollie offers a variety of workshops and webinars for all levels of photographers. To learn more about her programs, please visit her website at [Awake the Light Photo Workshops](#). Make certain to also sign up for her newsletter which is full of insightful tips.

Jennifer King

A world-renowned and award-winning educator, nature, and fine art photographer, [Jennifer King](#) leads workshops around the world. You can find her current list of workshops and educational opportunities at [Jennifer King Workshops](#).

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 will 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 [Colleen Miniuk Photography & Writing](#).

Angie McMonigal

Angie’s mission is to help creative-minded photographers explore the world of architectural photography. Through blog posts, eBooks, newsletters, photowalks, and workshops, she aims to provide hands-on, practical, and creative training. You’ll be able to improve your entire creative process from shooting to post-processing. Visit [Angie McMonigal Photography](#) for more information.

James Prochnik

James Prochnik teaches photography online and in person. For information, please contact him at his [website](#), or follow him on [Instagram](#) for the latest news and announcements about upcoming courses.

Michele Sons

The Art of Place is Michele's holistic education resource for landscape and nature photographers, encompassing the entirety of the art and craft of photography. Through her eBooks, private online mentoring, and private field workshops, Michele shares her unique approach to expressive image-making. Learn how to connect with the natural world and express yourself confidently and creatively. Elevate your artistry with Michele and The Art of Place. For more information, visit [Michele's website](#).

Mary Louise Revese

Mary Louise offers online and in-person workshops. Information on her workshops can be found at [Bella Vista Photography](#). Use Promo Code NVPS for a discount on workshops. Discounts vary by workshop and discounts are in addition to early-bird pricing.

Blake Rudis

Blake is a self-published author and has worked as an independent photo educator for many software companies. Throughout his teaching efforts at [f.64 Academy](#) Blake has helped hundreds of thousands of photographers excel in their post-processing endeavors. He hosts Photoshop tips, courses, monthly critiques, and live events on his [f.64 Elite monthly membership website](#).

Jeffrey Gabriel Silva

Jeffrey Gabriel Silva is an award-winning photographer and filmmaker based in Chicago, IL, who offers in-person and online courses for all levels of students. For more details visit [Jeffrey Gabriel Silva Photography](#).

Cat Simmons

Cat Simmons is a studio portrait and conceptual artist who loves to nurture artists towards their own growth and personal goals. She tutors, mentors, and teaches on a variety of topics both in-person and on-line. For current learning opportunities, visit her website [Cat Mac Studios](#).

Jim Zuckerman

Jim is an award-winning photographer, published author, and educator. He offers books and online classes and leads small-group photography workshops and tours in the US and around the world. His website is [Jim Zuckerman Photography](#) and you can find out the latest information on his tours at [Jim Zuckerman Photo Tours](#).



Photographic Society of America

NVPS is a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), a worldwide organization whose mission is:

- ▶ To promote the art and science of photography as a means of communication, image appreciation, and cultural exchange
- ▶ Provide education, information, inspiration, and opportunity to all persons interested in photography
- ▶ Foster personal growth and expression, creativity, excellence, and ethical conduct in all aspects of photographic endeavor

Activities for Members of PSA include:

- ▶ Educational opportunities include Online Courses, Webinars, Mentors, Consultants, and Study Groups
- ▶ A Monthly Journal, online or print copy
- ▶ Six Divisions specializing in distinct photographic areas
- ▶ Quarterly Division Newsletters
- ▶ Competitions for members and club members
- ▶ Opportunities for members to volunteer

More information about membership and activities of PSA may be found at the [Photographic Society of America website](https://www.psa.org).

NVPS Elected Board Members 2024–2025



Deb Rose
President



George Hogeman
VP Programs



Frank Napoli
VP Operations



Janis Kane
CO–VP Competition



Art Rose
CO–VP Competition



Tom Brett
Treasurer



Pat Corey
Secretary/Historian