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FOTOFAX

NEWSLETTER
OF THE
NORTHERN
VIRGINIA
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

“Out of the Shadows”

by
Don Little



FOTOFax is the newsletter of the **NORTHERN VIRGINIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY** NVPS

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MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**



Deb Rose

“I believe that the world around us mirrors what we see in ourselves...beauty, simplicity, complexity, and responsibility. Nature is a part of us and reflects who we are.”

Michelle Valberg

We are entering into one of my favorite times of the year—the fall to winter transition. Change can be hard, but change is necessary for creativity and our evolution as photographers. Change gives us the opportunity to build resilience, shifting how we look and see with the shifting of the sun and light into winter mode. The landscapes change and show us another facet previously hidden by green leaves and sun–cast shadows. Wildlife changes their activities and give us a view into another season of their day–to–day lives. The shifting sun creates angled shadows on architecture that may only be captured at this time of year.

As photographers this change can be filled with potential, but sometimes it may not feel that way. We may be tempted to move into hibernation with our cameras as the temperatures and daylight drop, and seemingly our potential for making photos.

Just as wildlife may slow down, rest, and prepare for emerging in the spring, we too can use this time to build our photography reserves and skills. NVPS has a rich fall and winter lineup of activities both online and in person to fuel our learning.

November starts off with Programs on Zoom with Frank Van Riper sharing how he photographs in a foreign country. NVPS member Kimxuan Nguyen will inspire us with an Education & Training session about long exposure photography at the Fire hall.

November also brings our first of three in–person competitions with print and digital images with judge Sandy Croan. The month ends at the Fire hall with Member’s Galleries by John Olsen (Journey to the Subcontinent of India) and Jim Sinsheimer (Illinois Forest Preserves), and a Member’s Forum by Wayne Wolfersberger (Yellowstone 98). There is also an opportunity to join in a Field Trip to Great Falls, MD.

Looking ahead, December brings us our first of three themed competitions—Motion. You can read a description of the theme on the website, along with more information about each of these learning opportunities.

Taking inspiration from the quote by photographer Michelle Valberg, as we move through this season, how can you your vision and creativity in your photos?

I look forward to learning together!

Deb Rose
President
2024–2025

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Judy Guenther

As we step into November, the world is truly opening up for travel, presenting us with unparalleled opportunities to explore and capture diverse landscapes, cultures, and stories through our lenses. Whether it's venturing abroad or exploring the hidden gems in our own backyards, there has never been a more vibrant time for photography.

However, with this surge in travel, we're witnessing some unintended consequences. Popular destinations are being overwhelmed, leading to new restrictions aimed at managing tourist flow. Cities like Venice are implementing measures to control the number of visitors each day. In the Five Lakes district in Japan at Mount Fuji, local officials are putting up barriers to block the views where traffic congestion is overwhelmed by tourists stopping along the roads to photograph. Citizens of Barcelona have started shooting water guns at tourists to drive them away. All of this reminds us that while our passion for photography drives us to these iconic places, we must also respect the local environments and communities.

I recently found myself in Quebec City's old quarter when a flood of cruise ship passengers arrived. The streets, once charming and intimate, became swamped with visitors, and the atmosphere shifted dramatically. It was a stark reminder of the delicate balance between tourism and preservation. Such experiences challenge us to think critically about where we go and how we capture the essence of a place, especially in a world that sometimes feels like it's bursting at the seams with travelers.

As you embark on your photographic journeys this month, I encourage you to seek out lesser-known spots in your travels. Explore your local communities and document the beauty that often goes unnoticed. Let's strive to tell authentic stories through our photography while being mindful of the impact we have on the places we love to capture.

Happy shooting, and I look forward to seeing your incredible work at our upcoming meetings!

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.

NOVEMBER

Sat–Sun	2–3	MID-ATLANTIC PHOTO VISIONS: Annual Meeting (In Person)
Tuesday	5	PROGRAM: Frank Van Riper—Photographing in a Foreign Country (Zoom)
Tuesday	12	EDUCATION & TRAINING: Kimxuan Nguyen—Long Exposure Photography (In Person)
Saturday	16	FIELD TRIP: The Potomac River and C&O Canal (rain date November 17) (In Person)
Tuesday	19	COMPETITION: Sandi Croan—Theme: None (Digital and Prints) (In Person)
Tuesday	26	MEMBER'S GALLERY: Print: John Olsen—Journey to the Subcontinent of India (In Person) MEMBER'S GALLERY: Virtual: Jim Sinsheimer—Illinois Forest Preserves (In Person) MEMBER'S FORUM: Wayne Wolfersberger—Yellowstone 98 (In Person)

DECEMBER

Tuesday	3	PROGRAM: Valérie Jardin—What It Means to Be a Street Photographer (Zoom)
Tuesday	10	EDUCATION & TRAINING: TBA—Post Processing Q&A (In Person)
Saturday	14	FIELD TRIP: Fireworks from Jones Point and Old Town Holiday Decorations (no rain date) (In Person)
Tuesday	17	COMPETITION: Deborah Loeb Bohren—Theme: Motion (Digital) (Zoom)
Tuesday	24	NO MEETING: Holidays

JANUARY

Tuesday	7	PROGRAM: Kristi Odom—Celebrating Wildlife and Photographing for Impact (Zoom)
Tuesday	14	EDUCATION & TRAINING: Catherine Wang—Studio Portraiture (In Person)
Saturday	18	FIELD TRIP: TBA (In Person)
Tuesday	21	COMPETITION: Mary Louise Ravese—Theme: None (Digital) (Zoom)
Tuesday	28	MEMBER'S GALLERY: Print: Didem Lenz—TBA (In Person) MEMBER'S GALLERY: Virtual: Janice Kane—A Gallery of Cape May, NJ (In Person) MEMBER'S FORUM: Jeff Hancock—Planes, Trains, and Automobiles (but mostly Planes) (In Person)

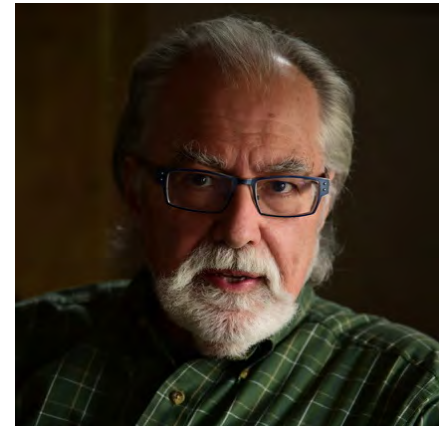
NOVEMBER 5 (ZOOM)

Frank Van Riper

Photographing in a Foreign Country

Frank Van Riper is an award-winning documentary and fine art photographer, journalist, author, and lecturer whose work has been published internationally.

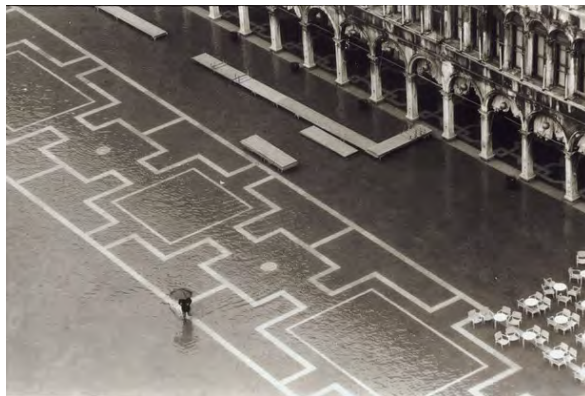
His photographs are in the permanent collections of the National Portrait Gallery (Washington, DC), as well as in the Portland Museum of Art (Portland, ME). His 1998 book of photography and essays, *Down East Maine/A World Apart*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won the silver award for photography from the Art Director's Club of Metropolitan Washington.



Frank Van Riper by Judith Goodman

His latest book is *Recovered Memory: New York & Paris 1960–1980*, which immediately became an Amazon bestseller. His previous book, done in collaboration with his wife and professional partner Judith Goodman, was *Serenissima: Venice in Winter*, a coffee table collection of black and white photographs and essays, published in 2008 both in the US and Italy. Their next collaboration—and their first book in color—is *The Green Heart of Italy: Umbria and its Ancient Neighbors* (Fall, 2025). Frank's book sales site is [Goodman–Van Riper Photo Store](#).

Van Riper was a member of the New York Daily News Washington Bureau for 20 years, serving as White House correspondent, national political correspondent, and Washington Bureau news editor. He was a 1979 Nieman Fellow at Harvard. In 1982 he partnered with his wife in commercial and documentary photography. In 1992,



Frank Van Riper—"High Water Mark, Venice"



Frank Van Riper—"Rodin Museum Guard, Paris"

(Programs continued)

Van Riper became photography columnist of the Washington Post, where his column, “Talking Photography,” appeared for 19 years. It now is now available at [TalkingPhotography](#).

A popular teacher and lecturer, Van Riper is on the faculty of PhotoWorks at Glen Echo Park, MD, and has lectured and/or taught in the Smithsonian Resident Associates Program, the Maine Photographic Workshops, the University of Maine at Machias, and at other colleges and universities in the mid-Atlantic region.

In his presentation Frank will discuss photographing in a foreign country, and include images made by him and his wife in Umbria, Venice, Paris, England, and Japan. Among other things, Frank will discuss how he gets people to let him photograph their daily lives and activities, the best times to shoot on the street, why the most popular tourist attractions often are the worst venues for great photography, and how to loosen someone up even when you don't speak the language.

Frank is an award-winning documentary and fine art photographer, journalist, author, and lecturer whose photography has taken him all over the world with his wife, Judith.



Frank Van Riper—“Sommelier, Orvieto”



Frank Van Riper—“Sagrantino Cypress, Umbria”

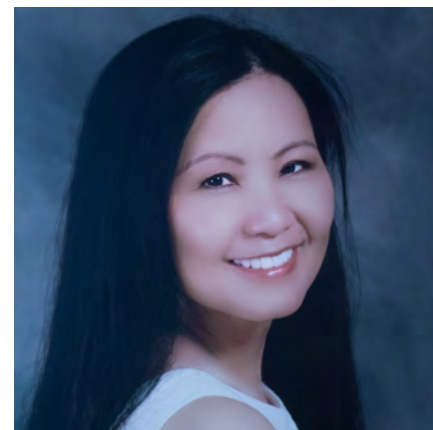
NOVEMBER 12 (IN PERSON)

Kimxuan Nguyen

Long Exposure Photography

Kimxuan studied photography in college when the photography world was still using film and darkrooms to process photos. Fast forward, Kimxuan joined NVPS in 2019. She has received several monthly competition and year-end awards. Some of the awards were Advanced Color Print of the Year, Advanced Color Digital Image of the Year (2021 and 2022), Advanced Monochrome Digital Image of the Year, Photographer of the Year—Color Digital Advanced, Photographer of the Year—Versatile Advanced, and the Ollie Fife Award (2021 and 2024).

Currently, Kimxuan is the Lead Instructor for Advanced Level Class and an Assistant to the President of the Vietnamese Photography Society (VNPS). She has written and contributed photography lessons, as well as lessons on portfolio projects. She also served as a member of the judging panels for VNPS. In addition, Kimxuan has received the Portfolio Project of the Year and Honorable Excellent Service awards from the society.



Kimxuan Nguyen



by Kimxuan Nguyen

(Education & Training continued)

Kimxuan likes to travel within the United States as well as internationally to photograph mostly landscaping and wildlife.

According to Wikipedia, “Long–exposure, time–exposure, or slow–shutter photography involves using a long–duration shutter speed to sharply capture the stationary elements of images while blurring, smearing, or obscuring the moving elements.” Kimxuan will explain her techniques for long exposure photography. She will also go over the techniques on how to capture fireworks in a creative way by using the long exposure method.



by Kimxuan Nguyen



by Kimxuan Nguyen

NOVEMBER 19 (IN PERSON—DIGITAL AND PRINTS)

Sandi Croan

No Theme

Sandi Croan is an independent photographer from Centreville who has been living in Northern Virginia since 1978. She specializes in landscape, nature, and travel photography with an eye for capturing the unique and creating fine art for homes and offices.

Sandi has won numerous competitions and awards for her fine art photographs including Photographer of the Year and Print of the Year numerous times as well as Versatile Photographer of the Year at NVPS, Best Landscape and People's Choice awards at Nature Visions Photography Expo, and Best in Show and 2nd Place at the juried Meadowlark Photo Expo in Vienna, as well as awards at Art Space Herndon Fine Art Photography Exhibit, Reston Artists PhotoArt, and many more.

Her images have been selected to be put on permanent display at the Fair Oaks Hospital Cancer Center, Inova Schar Cancer Center, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, and the Joseph Miller Center for the Photographic Arts. She has been juried into numerous art shows including the prestigious VisArts of Rockville Exhibitions, Fairfax County Council of the Arts Show (Unlocked), The Fraser Gallery International Photography Exhibition, and many others. Sandi was a featured artist in Elan Magazine and her photograph "Blue Lagoon" was on the cover. She was also a finalist in Outdoor Photographer Magazine's 2021 Nature's Colors with her image "Sossusvlei 427." She has also had photographs published in other local and national magazines.

Sandi has sold many of her photographs to private, corporate, and government clients and does shows for businesses and other local events.

Sandi has been a member of NVPS since 2004 and has served in a variety of board positions since 2005. She served as President of NVPS for two terms from 2009–2011. She is a speaker and serves as a judge for area photography clubs, competitions, and exhibitions as well as mentoring high school photography enthusiasts.

You can see a sample of Sandi's work on [Sandi Croan Photography](#).



Sandi Croan

COMPETITION RESULTS

October 15, 2024

THEME: **None**

Many thanks to our October judge, Samantha Stephens, for her expertise in judging this month's "open" competition. Congratulations to the award winners. You can view all of the winning images on the NVPS website at [2024–2025 Competition Winning Images](#).

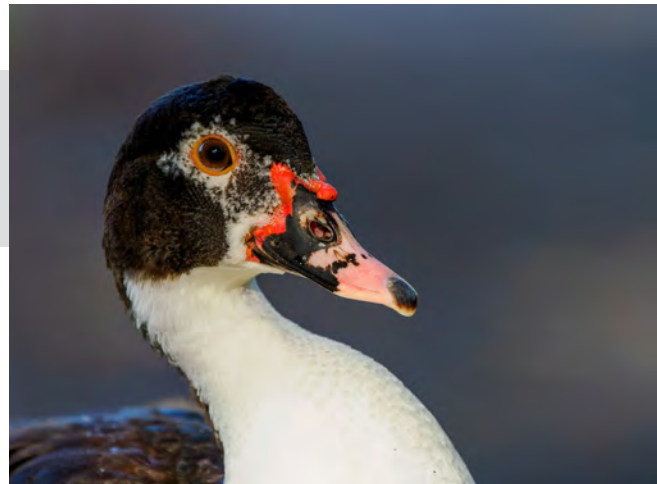
NOVICE COLOR DIGITAL



1ST PLACE
Sarah Blalock, "A Flower's Night"



3RD PLACE
Susan Blalock, "Spear Fishing"



2ND PLACE
Richard Distlerath,
"Feral Muscovy Duck"

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

None



1ST PLACE
Darlene Jarrett, "Having A Conversation"

2ND PLACE
Richard Distlerath, "Leopard In Botswana"



3RD PLACE
Susan Blalock, "Ghosts"

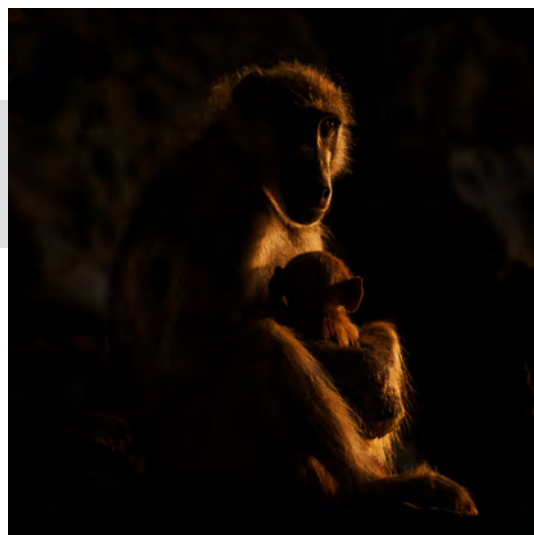
HONORABLE MENTIONS:

None



1ST PLACE
Lidia Slominski, "Grooming"

2ND PLACE
David Kravitz, "Mother's Love"



3RD PLACE
Kirk Johnson, "Odd Man Out"

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

None



1ST PLACE
John Olsen, "Lone Tree"

2ND PLACE
Lidia Slominski, "Playing With Paint"



3RD PLACE
Janice Kane, "New Year's Eve Fireworks"

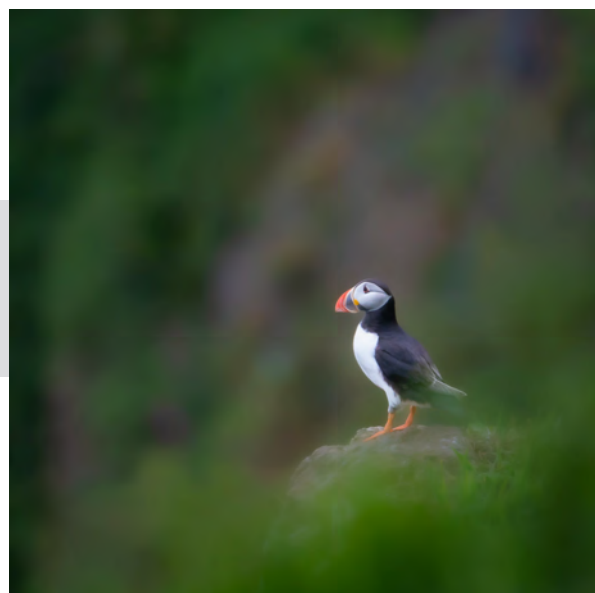
HONORABLE MENTIONS:

None



1ST PLACE
Deb Rose, "Peek A Boo"

2ND PLACE
Rena Schild, "Puffin Sentry"



3RD PLACE
Stan Bysse, "Tid Bit"

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Alan Goldstein, "Solitude"

Catherine Wang, "In The Air"

George Karamarkovich, "Readhead"

Judy Guenther, "Singing Their Hearts Out"

Kimxuan Nguyen, "Upside Down"

Thu Huynh "Mask Dance"



1ST PLACE
Stan Bysse, "Sanderling"

2ND PLACE
Rena Schild, "King's Cross Station London"



3RD PLACE
Fred Krebs, "Rain Drops On Spider Web"

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

- Debra Mastronardi, "Plaid"
- Gary Perlow, "Halloween Love Letter"
- Kimxuan Nguyen, "Hanging On"
- Suzy McIntire, "Pilgrimage To The Otherworldly"
- Don Little, "Surviving And Thriving"

NOVEMBER 26—PRINT (IN PERSON)

John Olsen

Journey to the Subcontinent of India

Life is a journey, not a destination.

John's photographic journey began almost 50 years ago. After meeting new friends who were photo enthusiasts, including past NVPS President Fred Siskind, and seeing an exhibit of Ansel Adams photographs, John was hooked on photography. His first camera was an Olympus SLR. He shot 35mm black and white film and color slides in his own darkroom. John has enjoyed all genres of photography, including nature, birds, landscapes, sports, events, travel, and family portraits.

As his family grew, time available to pursue photography became limited. After retiring from the federal Government in 2015, John resumed his interest by joining the NVPS and the OLLI Photo Club (OPC). Along with fellow NVPS member, Ed Marion, he is a co-coordinator of the OPC which is a part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University. John thanks all of the NVPS



John Olsen



by John Olsen

(Member's Gallery continued)

members who have been guest speakers at the OPC monthly meetings and who have partnered with the OPC to photograph the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in 2023 and 2024.

In 2024, John traveled to India for the first time, to celebrate his daughter and son-in-law's wedding. His member's gallery is a visual narrative of his journey to modern India, one of the most diverse countries in the world, reflected in its religions, ethnicities, and customs across a population of 1.4 billion people. John's prints tell the story of the people he met, the places he visited, and the emotions that he experienced during his journey to the subcontinent of India.

John's photographic journey began almost 50 years ago. He enjoys all genres of photography, including nature, birds, landscapes, sports, events, travel, and family portraits.



by John Olsen



by John Olsen

NOVEMBER 26—DIGITAL (IN PERSON)

Jim Sinsheimer

Illinois Forest Preserves

Jim's introduction to photography was at around age seven when his dad converted a coal bin (they now had gas heat) to his darkroom. However, Jim's interest really took off in college. He has been a member of NVPS since 2018 having moved to Virginia from Southern California to be with his grandson and his family. His past work has been published in Black and White Magazine, LensWork and LensWork's "Seeing in Sixes." Jim has been a Canon shooter forever—he still has his FTB, TL, and F1 cameras as "museum" pieces.



Jim Sinsheimer

During the post–World War II era of the late 20th century, the northern suburbs of Chicago saw dramatic development of residential and commercial construction. To preserve portions of the natural forest which originally covered the land, the Illinois Forest Preserves were created by the various counties in the area. As Jim grew up there, the forest preserves always impressed him with their state of natural, undeveloped character. Through the seasons, the forest areas changed their colors in the fall, were covered with snow in the winter, were inundated with spring rain, and provided a lush canopy of green in the summer months. When his parents moved



by Jim Sinsheimer

to a retirement community near the Des Plaines River in 2008, Jim began to photograph this portion of the preserves during his periodic visits. Over ten years, Jim captured images of the preserves and the river in all states of weather during the seasons.

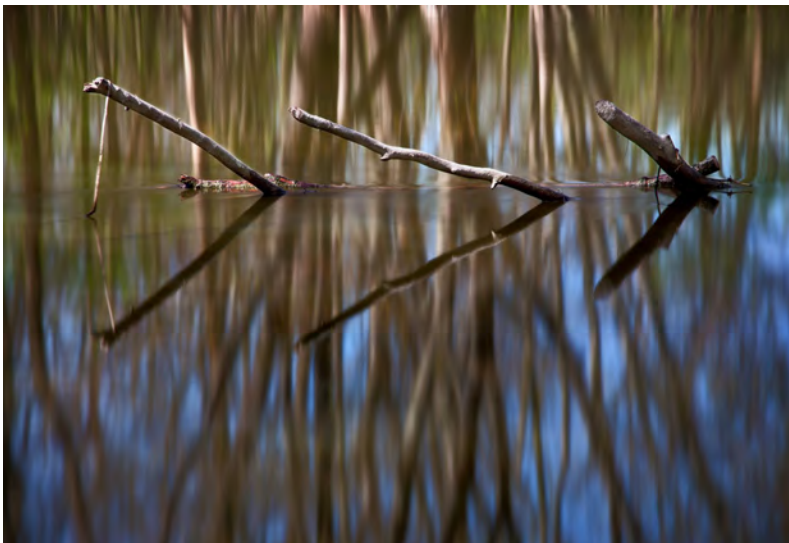
(Member's Gallery continued)



by Jim Sinsheimer



by Jim Sinsheimer



by Jim Sinsheimer

Over 10 years Jim captured images of the Des Plaines River forest preserves throughout the seasons and weather patterns.

NOVEMBER 26 (IN PERSON)

Wayne Wolfersberger Yellowstone 98

98% percent of the visitors to Yellowstone never see 98% of the park!

Wayne is an ecologist–naturalist, educator, and photographer with a master’s degree in education. Over his career, he worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Navy Photographic Center. He has spent 45 years in science education in public schools and universities. He has taught a variety of photography classes, led photography tours, and has presented educational nature photography programs in the Mid–Atlantic region, the UK, and Australia. He has received multiple awards from Natures Best, North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA), and several other photography organizations. His photos have been published in a variety of media and appeared in fine art exhibits as well as stock photography around the globe. His web site is [Nature is Wild Photography](#).



Wayne Wolfersberger

The average visitors spend two days visiting Yellowstone, with all their time on roads connecting them to the big–name features such as Old Faithful, Yellowstone Falls, Mammoth Hot Springs, and some other geyser basin features.



Wayne Wolfersberger—“LeHardy Harlequins”

(Member's Forum continued)

They seldom stop even to view some other features along the way in their rush to get to the next “big thing.” They “hike” the board walks around some of the geyser basins but little else in their rush to “see it all.” There is so much more to see and do in the world’s first national park that is 2.2 million acres of treasures.

Wayne will share some of the “undiscovered gems” that are commonly overlooked. This will be from his perspective as a Yellowstone Ranger and as a photographer, and will include boating, hiking, and even camping or sleeping on your boat docked at the public marina at the largest natural freshwater lake in the country.



Wayne Wolfersberger—“Crystal Falls”



Wayne Wolfersberger—“Sailboat Hotel”

Wayne will share some of his experiences as a Yellowstone National Park Ranger to share "undiscovered gems" that 98% of visitors never see.

Judy Guenther

An Update on the AI Tech Craze in Photography

“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”

Arthur C. Clarke

It has been 18 months since I wrote a guest article for the [March 2023 issue of FotoFax](#) titled “The AI Tech Craze—Pandora’s Box or a New Tool?” In the modern world of technology, 18 months is an eon, so I thought I’d take another look at Artificial Intelligence (AI) and what is new as it relates to photography.

In reality, the speed and growth of AI capabilities is almost startling. Melissa Kolbe, an AI Strategist, authored an article titled [“The State of AI in September 2024: A Business Leader’s Guide to the Future”](#) on the open platform “Medium” which suggested this possible generational leap timeline for AI:

- ▶ Generation 1 (2022)—AI assistants like ChatGPT provided basic task automation
- ▶ Generation 2 (2023–2024 NOW)—AI is more advanced with improved capabilities, complex task handling, and improved content understanding
- ▶ Generation 3 (2025–2026)—AI promises significant advancements in reasoning and capabilities including advanced analysis
- ▶ Generation 4+—AI will move into autonomous decision-making, solving complex challenges

This rapid development seems almost scary, but this generational leap is also occurring for AI-driven creative tools for photography, graphic design, digital art, and illustration. We have seen the photographic post-processing tools in software packages, like Adobe Photoshop, Topaz Photo AI, ON1 Raw, and Skylum Luminar NEO, incorporate artificial intelligence to drive their software, improving the core workflow for photographers. Time-consuming tasks like cloning and removing unwanted items used to take much longer to complete and produced mixed results. Tools in Photoshop such as the “Remove Tool” and “Content Aware Fill” have gotten faster, “smarter,” and more capable,



Judy Guenther

(Guest Article continued)

reducing post-processing time. I've been amazed to see how much better and faster these tools have become since the software firms introduced them. In fact, the Beta version of Photoshop has just released a new nested "Find Distractions" in the "Remove Tool" which magically removes "people" or "wires and cables" without your having to select them. It's pretty amazing.

Not all of the AI tools available will appeal to all photographers, and text-generated images cannot be used in NVPS competition entries. Our NVPS competition rules state: "No portion of an image, e.g., sky, may originate with another photographer, and every portion of a photograph submitted by a photographer must originate from images captured by the photographer submitting the image to the competition." Understandably, then, images generated through text prompts may not be in the competition.

But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't experiment with these AI tools nor should we ignore images totally designed through the use of AI as another creative outlet. I have even seen juried competitions popping up that are solely for art created through AI.

Why would you want to try these new creative tools?

- ▶ You might want to see what a composite of different elements might look like. By selecting the area where you want to add something and typing a text prompt in the generative fill panel in the top row of Photoshop tools, and pressing "generate," you can see what it would look like. Then you can find one of your own images to replace the composite and delete the generated one.
- ▶ AI could also generate subject matter that might inspire you to go out to capture this idea with your camera.
- ▶ It would allow you to push your creative boundaries and learn new skills.

Two photography educators I know have embraced AI as a new creative tool to create pretty amazing images (and they always identify work which they have created with AI). Jim Zuckerman, our NVPS judge from October 2023, is a professional photographer, photography educator, and workshop leader. He now offers an online class titled "[AI Image Making—Push the Boundaries of Your Imagination](#)" and has [AI image galleries on his website](#) in addition to his photo galleries of many different subjects.



Digital AI Art created by Jim Zuckerman

(Guest Article continued)

Blake Rudis, our NVPS speaker from May 2023 and a professional photographer and educator at [F64 Academy](#), has been using the software [Midjourney](#) for multiple years now to create his conceptual art through text prompts. Blake has numerous training videos on his YouTube Channel including one you should watch called "[The Artificial Elephant in the Room.](#)"



Blake Rudis' YouTube Video on "The Artificial Elephant in the Room"

He then uses a program called [Magnific AI](#) to make the images generated in AI appear more detailed and realistic.

I looked at the website for Magnific AI and I would encourage you to just look at their home page which describes the software's capabilities as "An Image upscaler, enhancer, and transformer that feels like magic." This is one image on the site that shows the "before" and "after" of a portrait using the software. I have no idea if it was originally an AI image or an in-camera photograph, but I was certainly amazed.



"Before" image on Magnific AI web pag



"After" image on Magnific AI web page

(Guest Article continued)

One of the newer tools I have used in Photoshop is their text-driven “Generative Fill” tool with a reference image to prepare personalized greeting cards for my family. In essence, it is AI-generated but with my own image taken into consideration. My granddaughter, Hannah, wants to major in biochemistry in college. For her high school graduation card, I made an image in Photoshop by using a picture of Hannah as a reference and then typing the text prompt, “young woman dressed in a white lab coat facing the camera and smiling with a colorful lab behind her filled with lots of beakers and vials in a horizontal format” with a Bioluminescence Effect added to the generated image. Generative Fill created three images for my consideration. I was able to use my favorite AI image and then used Hannah’s image as a layer to mask in her face. I did minor post-processing tweaks and turned it into a unique card. It was great fun, a learning experience, and it elicited a surprised smile from my granddaughter. (If you look closely at the AI text-generated image, you’ll see that the face is not that different from Hannah’s face in the reference image. My preference, though, was the card below which was the one I sent to Hannah.



"Reference" image



AI text-generated image



AI image with masking and post-processing by Judy Guenther



The AI-aided card that Judy Guenther used

So is AI a new tool or Pandora’s box as it relates to photography? You will have to decide for yourself. As for me, I’m a convert to the new AI-powered post-processing tools which save me time. And, I’ve enjoyed expanding my creativity through new software capabilities and techniques. It keeps my gray cells activated and energized and I’m more aware of what is going on in the AI graphics world. I also think it is important to stay knowledgeable and current on AI advancements.

NOVEMBER 16 (IN PERSON)

The Potomac River and C&O Canal

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (rain date November 17)

Great Falls is a DMV treasure and a favorite place for landscape photography. In November we will photograph the Potomac River and C&O Canal on the southeast end of the Maryland side of Great Falls.

We will park in the (free) parking lots across from The Old Angler's Inn and head over the Angler's Footbridge and down to the shore of the Potomac River, which at that point provides a beautiful wide view of the river and the shores beyond it. We will then walk northwest along the C&O Canal and take advantage of the landscape and wildlife photo ops that the canal provides. We will make our way back toward the parking lot on the same path. For those who would like to get something to eat afterwards, we will meet at Market on the Boulevard, a deli 3.6 miles down the road from the parking lot.

When:

- ▶ Saturday, November 16 from 8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. (post-trip gathering at 11:15 a.m.)

Equipment and Notes:

- ▶ A walkaround or landscape lens will work well. A wide-angle lens (camera or phone) would be nice for river and footbridge shots. If you would also like to photograph birds on the canal, you can bring a longer lens, although the birds will be relatively close.



by Rena Schild

(Field Trips continued)

- ▶ Parking is free and there is no admission fee at this end of the park. There is an upper and lower parking lot across from Old Angler’s Inn, and restrooms at the lower lot. We will meet by the restrooms. There is free parking for visitors; it is also a ten–minute ride from the Glenmont Metro station (red line).
- ▶ The walk down to canal and river is moderately steep and the paths are not paved, so hiking footwear is recommended.

Where:

- ▶ Great Falls National Park
- ▶ Start at parking lot across from Old Angler’s Inn (10801 Macarthur Blvd, Potomac, MD)

We hope you can join us!

Rena Schild and Steven Glintz
Field Trip Coordinators 2024–2025

Images from the Field Trips may be viewed at [NVPS Field Trips Gallery](#).



by Rena Schild



by Rena Schild



[The LIVE and IN-PERSON Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions](#) (MAPV) event featuring so many great speakers, workshops, vendors, and gallery of incredible images is almost here! The big event is to be held on Saturday-Sunday, November 2-3, at the [Hylton Performing Arts Center](#) in Manassas, VA.

Here's what's happening:

- ▶ There is an amazing lineup of renowned [speakers](#) to inspire us with their exciting presentations on a wide variety of topics from landscape to portraiture to architecture and everything in between. The 20 [presentations](#) are headlined by the Nikon Canada Ambassador Michelle Valberg who gives the Saturday and Sunday Keynote presentations and the legendary Art Wolfe returning as a special guest.
- ▶ Bring your camera and enjoy any of the 35 [Hands-On Workshops, photo shoots and 1-on-1 sessions](#). These sessions are limited in size for ease of shooting and close instruction. Register soon—many sessions will sell out.
- ▶ [Camera manufacturer reps, photography vendors, and a local camera store](#) will be open for business.
- ▶ A [free Zoom presentation](#) on October 27 as a prelude to the Expo. (Registration is required.)
- ▶ Two [free in-person presentations on-site](#) at the Hylton Center. (Registration is required.)
- ▶ View the 500+ juried photos on exhibit from club members and students from area schools.

There is an EASY-TO-READ PDF of the [MAPV 2024 schedule](#) which you can download and print as you consider all of your options.

THE PHOTO GALLERY will feature an incredible selection of printed juried images in the six categories in each of the Nature and Photo Art Competitions. And I'm really happy to announce that NVPS is well represented! NVPS club members will have 82 juried images in the Nature competition and 69 juried images in the Photo Art Competition. Additionally, the People's Choice Award Nominees will feature images from NVPS members with 9 images in the Nature and 5 images in the Photo Art People's Choice competitions.

Be sure to cast your votes for the People's Choice Awards while you're viewing all of the incredible prints that will be on display in the gallery at the Expo!

ENTRY IS FREE to the vendor hall, the free Zoom and in-person presentations, and for the three juried exhibits of photography by adult and student photographers.

Here's what is included with each of the various types of [presentation passes](#).*

- ▶ **All Presentations Pass** (\$230): Attend any of 20 live presentations, of which fifteen will be recorded for later viewing online. (Hands-on workshops, photo shoots, and 1-on-1 sessions are not included.)
- ▶ **Saturday Presentations Pass** (\$175): Attend any of 11 live presentations on Saturday, November 2. (Recordings, hands-on workshops, photo shoots, and 1-on-1 sessions are not included.)

Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions

- ▶ **Sunday Presentations Pass** (\$155): Attend any of nine live presentations on Sunday, November 3. (Recordings, hands-on workshops, photo shoots, and 1-on-1 sessions are not included.)
- ▶ **Choice of 4 Presentations Pass** (\$145): Attend any four presentations on Saturday-Sunday, November 2-3. (Recordings, hands-on workshops, photo shoots, and 1-on-1 sessions are not included.)
- ▶ **Free Presentations:** Online registration is required for the one FREE Zoom presentation and two FREE live presentations.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Club Member Discounts of 10% are available on the purchase of any of the Presentation Passes for **2023-2024** NVPS members. Enter your email address in the “Discount Code” field to receive the discount. This discount **does not** apply to the hands-on workshops, photo shoots, and 1-on-1 sessions which must be purchased individually from any of the presentations pass.

Hands-on Workshop, Photo Shoots, and 1-on-1 Instruction Passes are priced separately from the presentation passes (prices vary from \$60 to \$90): Bring your camera! Choose from 35 workshops, photo shoots, and 1-on-1 instructional sessions. Each one is limited in size; passes are sold first-come, first-served. No speaker presentations or recordings are included.

And don't forget about ordering lunch from Panera now by [clicking here](#). Then pick it up in our new guests' lounge during MAPV 2024! Order in advance, please—no orders can be taken during MAPV 2024 and there are no other on-site vendors from which to purchase a lunch. You may bring your own lunch and there will be a seating area provided.

I look forward to seeing you all at this incredible event!

Jack Ledgerwood
NVPS MAPV Representative



Member Recognition

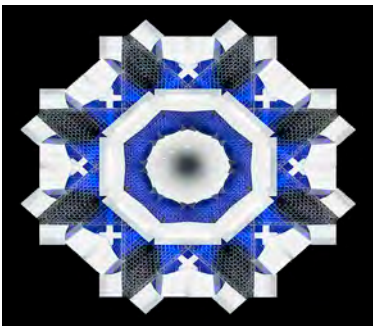
NVPS members have been busy creating photographic images, submitting them to shows, and getting accepted. Congratulations!

Gary Perlow won **Best in Show (Monochrome)** and the **Gold Medal** in the [Photographic Society of America's 2023–2024 Interclub Competition](#) with his image “Hungry Fish.”



Gary Perlow, “Hungry Fish”

On Sunday, October 13, one of **Kirk Johnson's** photo creations titled “**Shelby**” was shown on CBS News “Sunday Morning,” in conjunction with a piece called **Passage: In Memoriam**, which shows recent celebrities/luminaries (i.e. Ethel Kennedy and Cissy Houston) who passed away over the prior week. This marks the 20th time one of his photo–mandala images has appeared/reappeared on this weekly show.



Kirk Johnson, “Shelby”

If you have won any prizes for your photographs displayed in any gallery show, please send us a notification to the address shown for “Editors” at [Board Contacts](#) so that we can include your honor in our next issue and on the web page. Size the photos for competition (1400 px max width, 1050 px max height, @ 127 px dpi) and include any information regarding the show/award/website, etc.

Member Announcements

Willa Friedman's show titled "Reflections" (In the Style of Richard Estes) is on display at the [Beanetics Coffee Roasters](#) (7028 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA) through November 26. The next show titled "Painted Orchids" will be by Kieulan Nguyen from November 26 through January 7.

Outside Competitions

Joseph Miller Abstract Show—The Joseph Miller Center for the Photographic Arts is announcing its 14th Annual Abstract Photography Exhibit. We invite all photographers to submit entries for this prestigious event. We were unable to organize the event in 2024 due to circumstances beyond our control. For 2025, we are back and prepared to hold a virtual exhibit. We have revamped the entry and exhibit spaces and expect to hold an exceptional exhibit.

The preceding exhibits played a major role in the popularity of abstract photography, not only in the Northern Virginia area, but in the larger photographic community. Joseph Miller's outstanding reputation attracted entries from international and national photographers. We strive to continue that tradition.

New in 2025 is the addition of cash prizes for Special Merit, Best in Show, and Peoples' Choice awards.

The Joseph Miller Center will accept entries for the 14th Annual Joseph Miller Abstract Photography Exhibit on Monday, December 30, 2024.

The deadline for submissions will be Sunday, March 16, 2025.

We will post a detailed Prospectus containing all relevant information for the exhibit on the [Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs \(NVACC\) website](#).

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. Visit [Alain Gutiérrez Photography](#) for more information and to view his galleries.

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.

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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

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

Contact Board Members and Key Volunteers through the [Board Contacts](#) page.



NVPS FOTOFAX
PSA award-winning newsletter



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).



PSA Headquarters in Oklahoma City, OK