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FOTOFAX

NEWSLETTER
OF THE
NORTHERN
VIRGINIA
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

“Japanese Jellies”

by
Joan Barker



FOTOFax is the newsletter
of the

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**
NVPS

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shows in which they have
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Photographic Society



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MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**



Art Rose

“It is an illusion that photos are made with the camera... they are made with the eye, heart, and head.”

Henri Cartier-Bresson

I hope everyone had a wonderful and satisfying summer! In just a few weeks, the Northern Virginia Photographic Society will be back together to kick off the 2026–2027 club year. Over the past few months, our dedicated club volunteers have been hard at work with all the yearly administrative tasks and planning exciting activities to help us all learn, grow, and get inspired in our photography. Whether you’re just starting out or an experienced photographer, there will be something new to explore and spark your creativity.

Just a heads-up that Labor Day is on September 7, so our first meeting will be on September 8, which is the second Tuesday of the month. Here’s what’s happening in September:

- ▶ September 8: Programs—we’ll be meeting over Zoom
- ▶ September 15: Education & Training—we’ll be meeting in person at the Dunn Loring Fire Hall
- ▶ September 22: Competition—we’ll be meeting over Zoom
- ▶ September 29: Member’s Galleries and Forum—we’ll be meeting in person at the Dunn Loring Fire Hall

We’ll get back to our usual schedule in October, starting on the first Tuesday.

All meetings, whether we’re meeting over Zoom or in person, will have social time starting at 7:00 p.m., with the meeting kicking off right at 7:30. The only exception is Competition nights, where we’ll start the meeting at 7:15 to allow more time for the judging.

As always, on our nights we meet in person, you are invited to join us at the Silver Diner in Tyson Corner for dinner and conversation with other members, presenters, and judges. Look for the eBlast that comes out just prior to these meetings that will have restaurant locations and times.

A couple of important changes to note:

- ▶ The upload window for digital images being entered into competitions will open one day earlier, on the Sunday two weeks prior to the competition, and the upload window will close one day earlier at 6:00 p.m. on the Friday before the competition. This will give the VPs of Competition an additional day to organize the images for the judges and also allow an extra day for them to communicate with members should there be an issue with their image uploads.
- ▶ You now have another option for paying your dues which is through the club’s Zelle account. If you select this option, use the QR code available on the [Join](#) page on our website and be sure to include your email address so we can add you to the distribution for our communications.

I look forward to seeing you all online on September 8, for our first Program presentation, **The Power of Personal Projects** with Daniel Gregory. This will be an excellent start to our year as we explore how to turn our individual photographs into a unified body of work.

Art Rose
President
2026–2027

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Anita Feidler

“Even I, the biggest critic of AI, am beginning to soften. Heck, I think generative fill is one of the best things since the tripod was invented.”

Thomas Heaton

Welcome to the September issue of FotoFax!

Have you submitted your images for the Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions (MAPV) competition yet? Just after carefully reviewing my images to make sure I hadn't used AI features while editing, I watched a [video](#) from one of my favorite landscape photographers (and YouTubers)—Thomas Heaton. He recently posted about photographs that have won very

prestigious competitions, only to be later disqualified because the images were created with AI. Keen eyes from all over the internet quickly pointed out the clues: an owl with talons all facing forward instead of gripping a branch, green banding in an Oklahoma aurora, and logos that looked garbled. As if judges haven't been fooled enough by AI-generated images, watch the video to see where someone entered a non-AI image into an AI competition (and won, but was later disqualified), just to make a point!

I look forward to another year of NVPS and this issue includes not only descriptions of the programs offered this month, but also covers the updated rules for competitions, competition themes for the upcoming year, and a list of field trips we can look forward to.

NVPS events in September begin with Daniel Gregory's presentation on creating personal projects which should be inspirational for anyone contemplating a portfolio project this year. Shawn Thomas will present at our next meeting on September 15 and share his WILD approach to bird photography. Our Member's Galleries this month will take us (virtually) to Hawaii and Japan with Jim Sinsheimer and Judy Guenther, respectively. And Ilenia Alvarez will share her techniques for creating painterly images from the photos in the September Member's Forum. We'll also enjoy our first field trip at Black Hill Regional Park in Montgomery County, MD.

Be sure to read all about the upcoming MAPV weekend in November, and please consider volunteering to photograph the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics later this month.

NVPS comprises an incredibly talented group of photographers. I encourage you to share your perspective and expertise by contributing a guest article to FotoFax or submitting a cover image. If you're interested, feel free to reach out to me through the [Board Contacts](#) address for FotoFax Editor.

Let's continue to celebrate the world through our lenses, one frame at a time.

Happy shooting!

Anita Feidler
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 two months are listed below. Please check the [NVPS Calendar](#) for up-to-date information.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday	8	PROGRAM: Daniel Gregory—The Power of Personal Projects (Zoom)
Tuesday	15	EDUCATION & TRAINING: Shawn Thomas—WILD: Four Principles for Better Bird Photography (In Person)
Tuesday	22	COMPETITION: Lisa Cuchara—Theme: None (Digital) (Zoom)
Saturday	26	FIELD TRIP: Black Hill Regional Park (In Person)
Tuesday	29	MEMBER'S GALLERY: Print: Jim Sinsheimer—Hawaii (In Person) MEMBER'S GALLERY: Slideshow: Judy Guenther—Two Seasons of Japan (In Person) MEMBER'S FORUM: Ilenia Alvarez—Watercolor Technique in Photoshop (In Person)

OCTOBER

Tuesday	6	PROGRAM: Sharon Tenenbaum—The Power of Color in Photography (Zoom)
Saturday	11	FIELD TRIP: L'Enfant Plaza (In Person)
Tuesday	13	EDUCATION & TRAINING: Roger A. Lancaster—Photographing History (In Person)
Tuesday	20	COMPETITION: Tom Cuchara—Theme: None (Digital) (Zoom)
Tuesday	27	MEMBER'S GALLERY: Print: Siva Vittala—TBA (In Person) MEMBER'S GALLERY: Slideshow: Wayne Guenther—What Do I See (In Person) MEMBER'S FORUM: Suzy McIntire—Photographing the American Tracksides (In Person)

NOVEMBER

Tuesday	3	PROGRAM: TBA (Zoom)
Sat–Sun	7–8	MID-ATLANTIC PHOTO VISIONS: Annual Meeting (In Person)
Tuesday	10	EDUCATION & TRAINING: TBA (In Person)
Tuesday	17	COMPETITION: Frank Van Riper—Theme: None (Digital and Print) (In Person)
Saturday	21	FIELD TRIP: Great Falls Park, VA (In Person)
Tuesday	24	MEMBER'S GALLERY: Print: Philip Winters—TBA (In Person) MEMBER'S GALLERY: Slideshow: David Kravitz—TBA (In Person) MEMBER'S FORUM: TBA (In Person)

SEPTEMBER 8 (ZOOM)

Daniel Gregory

The Power of Personal Projects

What happens when you stop chasing individual photographs and start creating a body of work? Personal projects are one of the most powerful ways to improve your craft, develop your photographic voice and vision, expand your creativity, and create images with lasting meaning. Whether you're working with simple projects or something more ambitious—be it short-term or years in the making—we'll be talking about how to find ideas worth pursuing, organize and structure your work, sustain momentum, and embrace projects that evolve over time.

We will be looking at examples, talking practical strategies, and recalling lessons learned from years of project-based photography. In our conversation, you'll gain some tools and techniques for turning simple curiosities into a cohesive body of work. Whether you're beginning your first personal project or refining an existing one, you'll leave with fresh inspiration and practical ideas for creating works that are uniquely your own.

Daniel Gregory is a photographer, educator, and podcast host whose work explores the connections between people, place, memory, and time. Through both his photography and teaching, he encourages people to become more present, attentive, and aware of how we are connected to the land and each other.



Daniel Gregory



Images by Daniel Gregory

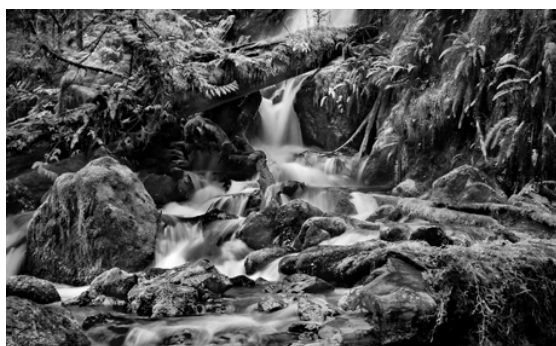
(Programs continued)

Daniel serves as a core faculty member at Photographic Center Northwest (accredited art school), and with organizations including CreativeLive, KelbyOne, and the Virtual Summit series. He is a sought-after speaker and educator, presenting at conferences and workshops across the country. He is also Adobe-certified in both Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop.

He also teaches from his studio on Whidbey Island, Washington. Whether leading courses like Meaningful Images and Inspiration and Influence, hosting travel workshops, or teaching his Master Printing course, his focus is always the same—helping photographers find their unique voice and vision and embrace their creative vision. He is the host of *The Perceptive Photographer* podcast, now in its eleventh year (approaching 600 episodes), where he explores both the craft of photography and the life of being a photographer.

Daniel is currently represented by the SAM Gallery in Seattle, Washington, and his work is held in numerous collections. He is currently working on a project about connecting to the woods and the notions of a touched landscape. View Daniel's work at his [website](#).

Daniel will share some tools and techniques for turning simple curiosities into a cohesive body of work.



Images by Daniel Gregory

SEPTEMBER 15 (IN PERSON)

Shawn Thomas

WILD: Four Principles for Better Bird Photography

Shawn Thomas is a Virginia-based nature and wildlife photographer with a street photography approach to birds—perpetually underprepared, slightly disheveled, and making it work with whatever flies by. He shoots mostly in local parks and forgotten areas, usually while lying in something wet and reconsidering his choices. His work has been recognized by Amateur Photographer of the Year, the reFocus Awards, *Virginia Wildlife*, the Piedmont Environmental Council, and others, and he's self-published three photo books—two of them zines. He's a Nikon shooter, a committed tripod hater, and his best shooting partner is his ten-year-old daughter, who spots the birds long before he does. He writes weekly at blog.shawnthomas.art about trips, photography tips, and what works and what doesn't. What he's found after all of it is that he's never really photographing the animal. He's photographing light, atmosphere, and moment. The bird is just the punctuation mark.



Shawn Thomas

It has never been easier or cheaper to get into wildlife photography, and there is far more around you than you think. You just have to look for it. In this talk, Shawn walks through WILD: Watch, Illuminate, Level, and Depth. WILD encompasses four principles for making bird photos that feel like more than a record shot—covering behavior and anticipation, working with (and occasionally faking) light, why perspective matters more than almost anything else, and how to make your background do real work. He'll also get into the practical stuff, including settings, lenses, and why you shouldn't be afraid of high ISO, plus a few examples of what happens when you get all four right, and what happens when you don't. Fair warning: it involves getting dirty.

(Education & Training continued)



by Shawn Thomas



by Shawn Thomas



by Shawn Thomas

2026–2027 Competition Rules

We are about to kick off another year of competition and look forward to seeing the images from our talented club members! The competition schedule is available on the [NVPS website](#) and includes the months that are in person with digital and prints as well as the theme months

Noteworthy changes for this year's competitions as approved by the membership at our May meeting:

- ▶ Digital entries must be uploaded into the system by 6:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the competition.
- ▶ Once an image has received an award (first, second, third or honorable mention), it may not be entered in subsequent monthly competitions in any category/class or year except for the year–end competition. The determination of whether an image is similar will be made by the VPs of Competition. If the photographer has any question regarding whether an image is similar, they can discuss it with the VPs of Competition well in advance prior to submission.
- ▶ New members to NVPS are strongly encouraged to consult with the VPs of Competitions prior to entering their first competition if they have any questions about which class in which they might best compete. Any Novice member may elect to exhibit in the Intermediate. Similarly, any Intermediate member may exhibit in Advanced. Upon doing so, however, the meter shall be permanently moved up to that class and one will not be able to compete in the easier class from where he/she has come.
- ▶ A member that wishes to drop back to the next lowest class (Advanced to Intermediate or Intermediate to Novice) and has not received any prior awards in any year within the current class, can request that they be dropped to the lower class by emailing the VPs of Competitions with this request.

As in prior years, six of the monthly competitions will be all–digital submissions with judging conducted over Zoom. Members may submit up to two images—one monochrome and one color in their respective class (Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced). The same image cannot be submitted in both categories.

Three of the nine monthly competitions will include both print and digital images, and be held in person at the Dunn Loring Fire House. Members may elect to submit a single image in either digital or print. They may also submit up to two images but must be one of these options—one digital and one print, or two print images in their respective class (Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced). In all cases, the category must be one color and one monochrome. 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.

If you wish to review the complete rules of competition, please refer to the [Competitions](#) section of the NVPS website.

Phil DeShong & Richard Distlerath
Co–VPs of Competition

COMPETITION THEMES

Each year NVPS holds three themed competitions to focus and challenge members. The themes for the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 calendar years (three themes per year) are described below. Keep these themes in mind as you photograph in the coming months. More information about competition themes may be found on the [NVPS website](#).

2026–2027

Industrial:

This depicts the essential machinery and equipment employed in a production process as opposed to the process of building something. Potentially, this could include the workers involved in that production process. It may highlight the complex technology on a production line, the maze of pipes in a power plant, or the unique apparatus used in food production. Industrial photography can be found in various settings, including plants, breweries and distilleries, welding shops, or even local coffee roasters, donut, and candy shops making your favorite treats.



Example for “Industrial”

Similar:

This theme challenges you to see new patterns in your environment. It involves identifying subjects that are distinct, yet appear in a manner that creates a complementary visual effect. This could encompass individuals wearing patterned clothes against a backdrop of similar patterns, objects of varying sizes reclining in the same posture, or the iconic image of people and pets that share a striking resemblance. The key is that the subjects are different and not simply a mirror image.



Example for “Similar”

Seascapes:

Seascapes capture the essence of the coast where the land meets the water. It can be a serene beach scene with umbrellas and chairs on a summer day, crashing waves with individual water drops emanating from the spray, long exposures with ethereal smooth water, or even a dramatic sunrise/sunset over the ocean.



Example for “Seascapes”

2027–2028

Glass:

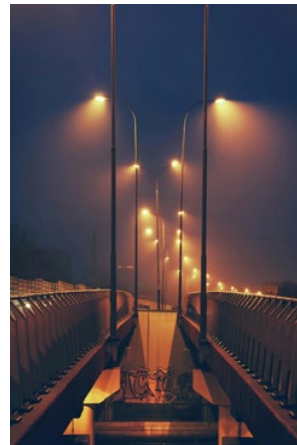
In this theme, glass should be the central element of the visual composition. It can be portrayed in diverse forms, including a collection of crystal goblets, windowpanes, or glass objects arranged in distinctive or repetitive patterns. Additionally, the unique properties of glass, such as refraction and reflection, can be employed to generate an unexpected and captivating visual effect.



Examples for “Glass”

Night Street Lights:

Night street light photography thrives on contrast, shadows, and unpredictability. Artificial light reshapes familiar streets, while patience and awareness help capture fleeting moments that only exist after dark. Use street lamps as your main light source and compositional element for nighttime street and urban photography.



Examples for “Night Street Lights”

Amusement:

Capture images that simultaneously evoke a pause and a smile—photos that are both amusing and thought-provoking. Images may include people, animals, or just objects. The objective is to blend lightheartedness with a hint of curiosity or deeper significance. Look for scenes that feel slightly off, ironic, or delightfully peculiar.



Examples for “Amusement”

SEPTEMBER 22 (ZOOM–DIGITAL)

Lisa Cuchara

Theme: None

In a world that rushes by in blinks and heartbeats, Lisa Cuchara slows time with her lens. A Master Craftsman, Master of Artistry, and Master of Photography (PPA), she weaves wonder from pixels and light, balancing science and soul as only a true alchemist of imagery can. With a heart tuned to nature's quiet chorus, Lisa sees beyond the obvious—catching the iridescent flutter of a hummingbird's wing, the secret stillness of dew-kissed flowers, the noble decay of forgotten places. Birds and blossoms, rusty relics, frogs with stories in their eyes—all become muses for her storytelling soul.

With an eye tuned to nature's quiet beauty, Lisa finds inspiration in birds, blossoms, frogs, and rusty relics—ordinary things transformed into extraordinary stories through her lens. Whether in the field or the digital darkroom, her photography is mindfulness in motion—a way to be fully present and to turn fleeting scenes into lasting art.

Lisa and her husband Tom, a fellow photographer and creative spirit, co-run a photography studio in Hamden, CT. Together, they teach light painting, macro, still life, flower photography, and post-processing techniques that blend craft with imagination. Their work has been featured in galleries, on book covers, and in magazines like *Wild Bird*, *ABA Birding*, *Birder's World*, and *Adirondack Life*.

Their books—*The Frog Whisperer* and *Create Fine Art Photographs from Historic Places and Rusty Things*—celebrate the charm of texture and the beauty of the overlooked. As educators and mentors, Lisa and Tom share their passion both online and in person, sparking creativity and vision wherever they go. Their motto? “*Creativity is contagious—pass it on.*”

Explore their work, classes, events, and more at www.LisaTom.Photos, and follow them on Instagram @LisaTom.photos. Learn not just to photograph what it looks like—but what it *feels* like.



Lisa Cuchara

SEPTEMBER 29—PRINT (IN PERSON)

Jim Sinsheimer

Hawaii

As an architect and design/construction manager for the past 45 years, photography has always been an integral part of Jim's career, starting with a small darkroom in the College of Architecture during the early 70s. Subsequently, he progressed from a tiny darkroom over a clothes dryer to a fully equipped facility for work; from a 4x5 view camera and finally into the digital age. Jim's work has been published in several issues of Black and White Magazine and LensWork. His work has also been shown in hanging exhibits in California and Chicago.



Jim Sinsheimer

After moving from southern California to Virginia to be closer to family, he joined NVPS in 2019 and has enjoyed its camaraderie and friendships. Travel photography has also been and remains a favorite part of the trips he has taken over the years, of which his five trips to the Hawaiian Islands were most memorable. He spent much of his time there hiking oceanside trails, exploring the jungle-like forests, viewing the islands from helicopters, throwing snowballs at the top of Mauna Kea, and rising at 4:30 a.m. to see a volcano at sunrise. The photographs he is showing depict the great photographic opportunities the islands offer.



by Jim Sinsheimer

(Member's Gallery continued)



Jim has visited the Hawaiian Islands five times. In this gallery, his images depict the great photographic opportunities the islands offer.



Photos by Jim Sinsheimer

SEPTEMBER 29—SLIDESHOW (IN PERSON)

Judy Guenther

Two Seasons of Japan

Judy Guenther joined NVPS in the fall of 2015. She is an avid travel photographer who loves the process of photography from the capture to post-processing. She enjoys a variety of photographic subjects during her travels and is particularly drawn to architecture.

Judy is a member of the Art League in Alexandria and the Maryland Federation of Art. Her work has been juried into shows across the country, published in various journals, and received awards, including grand prize in *The Washington Post* 2022 Travel Photography Contest and Honorable Mention in the 2023 Contest.



Judy Guenther

Her Member's Gallery will include images taken in Spring 2024 and Autumn 2025 in Japan. Her spring cherry blossom photo tour was a smorgasbord of locations, traditional Japanese history, landscapes, snow monkeys, Samurai sword manufacturing, big cities, and Sumo wrestlers.



Photos by Judy Guenther

(Member's Gallery continued)

Judy returned to Japan last autumn with husband, Wayne, who was visiting Japan for the first time. The trip was divided into exploring Japan's country and culture, followed by an "Essence of Autumn" small group photo tour to capture gorgeous fall colors and landscapes. Her Member's Gallery digital presentation will feature images from both trips.

**In her slideshow,
Judy will take us on a
journey, capturing the
beauty of spring and
autumn in Japan.**



Photos by Judy Guenther

SEPTEMBER 29 (IN PERSON)

Ilenia Alvarez

Creating a Watercolor Painting Effect in Photoshop

Ilenia Alvarez will transform a regular photograph into a watercolor painting using Adobe Photoshop. The process involves applying a series of editing techniques that simplify photographic details, create the appearance of brush strokes, soften edges, enhance colors, and add the texture of watercolor paper. Each step is designed to imitate the characteristics of traditional watercolor painting while using Photoshop's digital tools.

In 2016, Ilenia began a photographic voyage, initially captivated by the dynamic energy of urban landscapes and the candid moments found in street photography. Through her lens, Ilenia has captured life's spontaneous moments, crafting images that tell stories of time and place. Yet, as her journey unfolded, a transformation occurred,

leading Ilenia to the delicate and mesmerizing world of bird photography.

Ilenia joined NVPS in 2018. In the 2019–2020 club year, Ilenia was awarded Digital Photographer of the Year in the Novice category. In the 2022–2023 club year, Ilenia was awarded Color Digital Intermediate Photographer of the Year. In 2025, Ilenia was awarded by the Sedona Hummingbird Festival: Best Photo taken outside the U.S and People's Choice Award.

You are welcome to check out more of Ilenia's photography at her [website](#).



Ilenia Alvarez



by Ilenia Alvarez

(Member's Forum continued)



Ilenia will share her process of using Photoshop to transform a photograph into a watercolor painting.



Images by Ilenia Alvarez

NVPS Field Trips—2026–2027

Our official program year is September through June, but recently we have been organizing summer field trips in July and August as well.

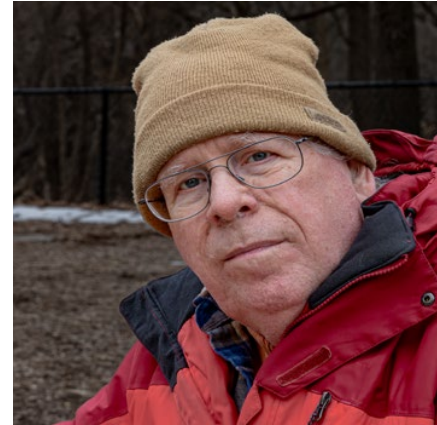
I hope those of us that participated in the Smithsonian Castle and Museums, and the “Smorgasbord” had a good time.

We are still looking for at least one other person to commit to being on site for “most” field trips. This is very helpful since occasionally I cannot make a field trip.

Whenever possible each field trip is announced in all three of our primary communications methods: on the website, in Fotofax, and at least two eBlasts. Monthly field trips usually require less than about 90 minutes of driving time and are most often held on a Saturday or Sunday. We do encourage carpooling when appropriate. On the day of the field trip, we also try to locate a refreshment site where members can converse as well as get a bite to eat. After the field trip, a follow-up message is sent, and every attendee is encouraged to pick their three best shots and submit them to the monthly field trip gallery. You can submit fewer than three shots, but we limit the maximum to three so we all practice picking our best shots, keeping the number of images in the gallery manageable.

The list of trips planned for 2026–27 is shown below. We return to the Upperville Colt & Horse Show next June. And we'll retry our sunrise field trip to Great Falls in November when the sun rises about half an hour after Great Falls Park opens, allowing pre-sunrise or “blue hour” pictures. We will explore several new venues as well. If there are any changes, we will update the calendar with the revised information. Watch for more details for each field trip!

- ▶ September: Saturday, September 26—Black Hill Regional Park
- ▶ October: Sunday, October 11—L'Enfant Plaza/DC
- ▶ November: Saturday, November 21—Great Falls Park, VA
- ▶ December: TBA—Meadowlark Winter Walk of Lights
- ▶ January: Saturday, January 23—National Building Museum
- ▶ February: Saturday, February 20—American Visionary Art Museum
- ▶ March: Saturday, March 20—Patuxent Research Refuge – South
- ▶ April: Sunday, April 11—Glenstone Museum & Sculpture Grounds
- ▶ May: Saturday, May 1—Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival
- ▶ June: Saturday, June 12—Upperville Colt & Horse Show



Seton Droppers

SEPTEMBER 26 (IN PERSON)

Black Hill Regional Park

7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. (rain date September 27)

Black Hill Regional Park is a Montgomery County park in Boyds, MD. There are views of Little Seneca Lake. Trails provide views of the lake, and provide nature and wildlife viewing. Look for scenic vistas, forest landscapes, wildlife, rock and trail details, and maybe a start of seasonal color. The park is open at sunrise, so early morning shots are available for any that wish to venture out early!

Information and maps of the park can be found at their [website](#). For those who love walks, visit [AllTrails](#) for hiking options.

When:

- ▶ Saturday, September 26, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. (rain date is September 27)
- ▶ We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at or near Picnic Shelter C, where the park website indicates there are also restrooms
- ▶ Post Field Trip snacks at Starbucks, 20900 Frederick Rd, Germantown, MD 20876

Where:

- ▶ 20930 Lake Ridge Drive
Boyds, Maryland 20841
- ▶ [Google Map](#)
- ▶ [Apple Map](#)
- ▶ Admission is free



by Seton Droppers

Suggested Gear and Notes:

- ▶ You will want to bring a camera and lens that matches your interests—lenses from wide angle to telephoto. Bring a macro lens if you love getting close to nature.
- ▶ Tripods are allowed and may be useful for shots close to sunrise.
- ▶ If you enjoy capturing images you find during hikes and walks, bring a single camera with normal length, 35mm to 100mm zoom, or a 50mm primary lens.

Seton Droppers

Field Trip Coordinator 2026–2027

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

MAPV will be held November 7–8, 2026, at GMU Mason Square

[Mid–Atlantic Photo Visions](#) (MAPV) is a premier photography event for our region. Once again, MAPV will be held at George Mason University, [Mason Square](#), Arlington, VA. In all, MAPV 2026 features 11 educational presentations, 14 hands–on workshops, seven different photo shoots, and one–on–one sessions with MAPV speakers and instructors. Renowned wildlife photographer Annalise Kaylor is the keynote speaker.

The Nature and Photo Art competitions at MAPV are a tremendous opportunity to showcase your work. NVPS members have always been a major presence in this show, and this year should be no exception. It isn't too late to enter the competitions, but the deadline for entries is **Wednesday, September 2**. Everything you need to know about the categories and rules can be found at [Photo Art Competition – MAPV](#) and [Nature Competition – MAPV](#). Judging ends on September 23 and accepted images will be announced on September 28.

This year's activities include:

- ▶ Hands–on photography workshops on macro, lighting, flowers, portraiture, light painting and abstracts
- ▶ Photo walks with top professionals to shoot nature in Huntley Meadows Park, architecture and night photography in Washington, DC, and captive raptors in Arlington
- ▶ Presentations on lighting, smartphones, architecture, landscapes, nature, travel, macro, and black & white
- ▶ A free curated exhibit of outstanding photography by members of MAPV's eight organizing photo clubs
- ▶ A free presentation on how to photograph the moon, snow, waterfalls and fireworks
- ▶ Two free workshops on printing your camera and camera–phone images
- ▶ A vendor hall where District Camera and experts from top photography brands will share their expertise and sell their latest equipment and supplies.

You can find more details about MAPV on the [website](#), including [Ticket Information](#), [Competition Information](#), and [Schedules](#). Workshops, photo walks, and one–on–one sessions fill up quickly so sign up soon!

This promises to be an excellent opportunity to further your photographic education, display your work, gather with fellow photographers, and generally have a great weekend. Let's make NVPS members the stars of the show, **enter your images by September 2!**

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics

The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) was organized in 1982 to provide senior adults with an opportunity for competition and fellowship through various athletic and recreational events.

Since 2023, volunteer photographers from the Osher Life Long Learning Institute at George Mason University's (OLLI Mason) Photography Club (OPC) and the Northern Virginia Photographic Society (NVPS) have joined together to support the NVSO by photographing this fun event. OPC and NVPS photos have been used on social media, slideshows, websites, and in print ads to promote the NVSO.

OPC and NVPS again will be documenting this year's NVSO, which will take place from September 11–October 4, 2026. Individual events with their NVSO location and schedule are listed on the [NVSO website](#).

If you are interested and available in being a volunteer photographer for the NVSO, please send an email to the **Northern Virginia Snr. Olympics** contact found on the NVPS [Board Contacts Page](#). Thank you for your support for the NVSO.

John Olsen
Ed Marion
NVPS NVSO Project



Photo by George Bradshaw



Photo by Rena Schild



Photo by Eva Lanyi



Photo by David Kravitz

Member Recognition

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

Two of **Jim Sinsheimer's** photographs were awarded prizes in the [Architectural Photography Awards](#) competition. "**Reflections of Chicago**" won **First Place** in the **Reflections** category, while his "**St. Regis Tower**" image received an **Honorable Mention** in the **Black and White** category. Congratulations, Jim!



Jim Sinsheimer, "Reflections of Chicago"



Jim Sinsheimer, "St. Regis Tower"

Member Announcements

Anita Feidler's show titled "**The Colors of Death Valley**" is on display at the [Beanetics Coffee Roasters](#) (7028 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA) through September 8. Anita's show will be followed by **Willa Friedman's** show titled "**Pareidolia**." Willa's show will be on display from September 8 through October 13. A reception will be held on Saturday, September 19, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Outside Competitions

Elemental: Earth, Air, Fire, Water—This exhibition is interested in the visible force of the elements and the quieter evidence they leave behind: erosion, ash, fog, heat, flood, dust, breath, smoke, stone, ice, and atmosphere. TCG Gallery welcomes work that treats the elements literally, metaphorically, abstractly, or experimentally. View details [here](#) and submit entries by September 20.

Monochrome—No matter if your original image was shot with tri x film, a digital SLR, or your phone, if the end product is a terrific monochrome image, it fits the call. The New York Center for Photographic Art's call for entries is open until October 18. View all details [here](#).

Check these sites regularly or sign up for emails to learn about other upcoming competitions:

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

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.

Alain Lázaro Gutiérrez Almeida

Alain Lázaro Gutiérrez Almeida 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 Bohren, an award-winning travel and abstract photographer, leads creative photography adventures in London, Paris, Lisbon, and Berlin. From complete beginners to seasoned experts, these small group workshops help you hone your technical skills and expand your creative vision in order to capture the essence of place in new and unique ways. Deb also offers a range of classes and one-on-one mentoring programs online for photographers of all levels. To find out more about her destination workshops, online classes, and mentoring, visit [The Traveling Lens](#). And to see her award-winning work, visit [Deborah Loeb Bohren Photography](#).

Lisa and Tom Cuchara

Lisa and Tom Cuchara are passionate educators who transform fleeting moments into lasting art. Alongside her husband Tom, Lisa leads inspiring photo tours, hands-on workshops, and personalized 1:1 mentoring sessions in person and on Zoom that blend creativity with technique. From light painting and macro to post-processing magic, they help photographers see the unseen and capture what moments feel like. Their award-winning work and books celebrate texture, beauty, and storytelling. Whether in the field or online, their mission is clear: spark joy, share knowledge, and pass on the contagious power of creativity. Learn more at [www.LisaTom.Photos](#).

Daniel Gregory

Daniel Gregory is a photographer, educator, and speaker dedicated to helping photographers create more meaningful work. As a core faculty member at Photographic Center Northwest and a frequent instructor at workshops and conferences nationwide, he teaches photographers how to develop creative vision through intentional image-making and personal projects. He is also the host of *The Perceptive Photographer* podcast, now in its eleventh year, where he reflects on creativity, craft, and the life of being a photographer. Learn more about Daniel's workshops, courses, and podcast at [www.danieljgregory.com](#).

Anja Hitzenger

Join Anja's photography platform "StrudelmediaLive," a space for learning, creating, and connecting through photography. Most classes are online, some are in-person, and all are live, interactive, and for small groups only, with students and teachers participating from around the world. Anja also hosts live online talks on photography-related topics and photobook presentations (recordings of all talks can be viewed on the StrudelmediaLive YouTube channel). For information about classes and additional programs, please visit [StrudelmediaLive](#).

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.

Annalise Kaylor

Annalise Kaylor is a professional wildlife photographer and conservation photojournalist whose narrative-driven images have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Audubon*, *The Washington Post*, and on platforms like PBS and the Discovery Channel. Her small-group workshops—limited to just 6–8 participants—take photographers into the field in places like Alaska, Brazil’s Pantanal, and around the globe to focus on fieldcraft skills and powerful visual storytelling. Annalise also teaches live online workshops and offers self-paced courses, making it easy to grow your skills no matter where you are. Explore upcoming workshops and online classes at [Annalise Kaylor Photography](#).

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.

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](#).

Mary Louise Ravese

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.

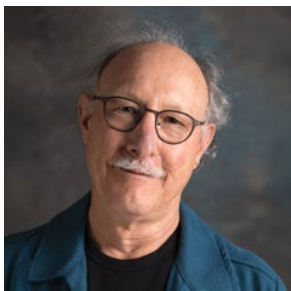
Frank Van Riper

Frank has been on the faculty of [Glen Echo Photoworks](#) for more than 20 years. As an instructor there, he teaches everything from studio lighting, to floral ‘portraiture,’ to street photography, to nighttime shooting among Glen Echo Park’s art deco buildings and neon. His website is [Goodman–Van Riper Photography](#).

NVPS Elected Board Members 2026–2027



Art Rose
President



David Kravitz
VP Programs



Frank Napoli
VP Operations



Phil DeShong
Co-VP Competition



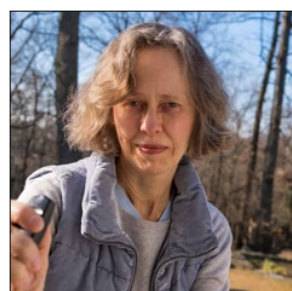
Richard Distlerath
Co-VP Competition



Pat Corey
Treasurer



Bill Kang
Assistant Treasurer



Suzy McIntire
Secretary/Historian

For a synopsis of the most recent Board Meeting minutes, please email the Secretary at [Board Contacts](#).



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
- ▶ To provide education, information, inspiration, and opportunity to all persons interested in photography
- ▶ To foster personal growth and expression, creativity, excellence, and ethical conduct in all aspects of photographic endeavor

More information about membership and activities of PSA may be found at the [Photographic Society of America website](#).

NVPS FOTOFAX PSA award-winning newsletter 2024