Focal Point

Baltimore Camera Club

The Oldest Continually-Operating Photographic Society in the USA (Incorporated in 1884)

Image of the Year 2022-2023
"Taking a Break" by Steven Sattler

This Issue's Contents

Thanks to Diane Bovenkamp, Lynn Roberts, Steve Sattler, Kent Sutorius, Jennifer Smutek, Mike Washington, Jim Voeglein, Walter Levy, and Tricia Simmons for their contributions to this issue. Photos that appear in this newsletter are copyright of their respective owners. The opinions expressed in articles are held by the respective authors and do not represent the opinions of the Baltimore Camera Club, its Board, *Focal Point* Editors, or general membership.

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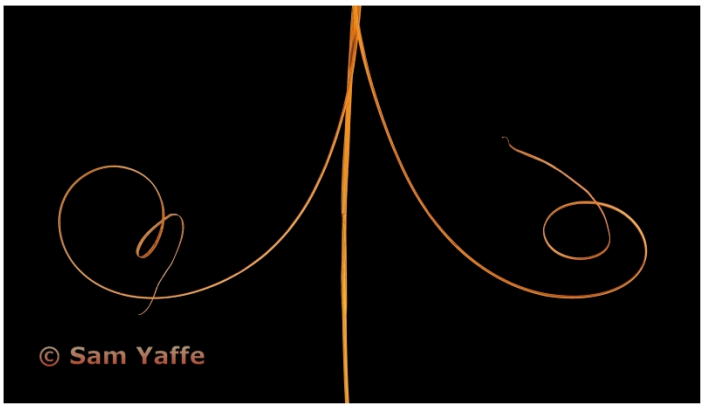

Editor's Corner - "It Takes a Village"
by Lynn Roberts

Board of Directors:
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Member and Visitor Welcome: Tina Whitehead
Mentors: Kenny Epps, Walter Levy
Photographic Society of America Club Representative for BCC: Diane Bovenkamp
Focal Point Co-Editor: Lynn Roberts
Focal Point Co-Editor: Kent Sutorius

Starting in February 2023, the Board voted that masks are now optional for in-person meetings. Please continue to be respectful of other members' health conditions—if you think you might be ill, then please attend virtually. All meetings will continue to be hybrid, with the exception of those marked on the calendar to be Virtual Only.

Program meetings are held weekly on Thursday nights on Zoom or in-person. All visitors are welcome (meeting starts at~7:30—8 p.m.). See calendar (http://www.baltimorecameraclub.org/meetings.html) for details.

For more information, email the club President, Diane Bovenkamp (d_bovenkamp@yahoo.com) & visit our website www.baltimorecameraclub.org.
BCC is a Charter Member Club of the Photographic Society of America www.psa-photo.org and a Member of the Maryland Photography Alliance www.mdphotoalliance.org.

There is a Baltimore Camera Club YouTube page for accessing recorded videos of some Zoom presentations. This is the link for you to access that page. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRe9N0w6Rog1iv51I0x0M9A

(Please send feedback, ideas or article proposals for future Focal Point issues to luckylanefarm@gmail.com and kasutorius@gmail.com)

Welcome to the first issue for the 2023-2024 year of BCC's newsletter, "Focal Point". This year we will be publishing the Focal Point on a quarterly basis, with issues appearing the end of September, the end of December, the end of March, and finally the end of June. This year we especially thank BCC's President, Diane Bovenkamp, for her past leadership in editing Focal Point. Diane will prove a hard act to follow this year!

Producing each issue takes a tremendous effort, and the two co-Editors (Kent Sutorius and Lynn Roberts) are very appreciative both for your feedback – and especially for your contributions. "It Takes a Village", and a lot of individuals have contributed content. In addition to serving as our Web Chair, Kent has contributed (to this month's issue) a "New Member Spotlight", featuring Jennifer Smutek, and has also assembled the summary of the "End of Year Awards" for 2022-2023, as well as a writeup on BCC's summer programs for 2023 and a look at "Coming Attractions". Kent also mastered the new software (Affinity Publisher) we are using this year, and has formatted the present issue in its entirety. Diane Bovenkamp contributed the "President's Corner" column, and Steve Sattler provides a regular "MPA Corner" column to keep us up to date with happenings at the Maryland Photography Alliance (to which, as BCC members, you all belong). Lynn Roberts, Mike Washington, Jim Voeglein, and Tricia Simmons provided writeups and photos describing several field shoots that occurred between spring and summer of 2023. Walter Levy compiles the point totals for BCC competitions. If my math serves me, this adds up to at least seven individuals who have contributed content to this issue of Focal Point! My sincere apologies to anyone who I might have overlooked.

It's great to have so many people participating. A club is only as strong as its members, and you all make BCC the special place that it is! Please consider submitting a writeup (with images) if you attend one of our field shoots or Club outings. And – if you have anything that you'd like to bring to the attention of BCC members, be it a head's up about exhibitions featuring your work, classes you're planning on teaching, or to ideas for future photo shoots or new products that might be of interest – shoot one of the co-Editors (Kent Sutorius or Lynn Roberts) an email at kasutorius@gmail.com or LuckyLaneFarm@gmail.com , respectively.

President's Corner

Hi, Everyone.

I'm honored to be starting my second year as President of YOUR Baltimore Camera Club. Can't believe that I've been a member of BCC since 2006 and I still love every day. I learn so much from all of you, and keep honing my artistic vision and techniques. I'm also blessed to have an amazing #TeamAwesome of Board members, who do so much to keep the club active and thriving. Thanks to all who volunteer, too, outside of the Board.

In fact, my first request in this 2023-2024 membership year letter will be for each of you to personally get to know more about how the club works--how we can keep offering excellent educational programs, competitions, mentoring, field shoots and educational/ networking opportunities every week, consistently since 1879 (incorporated in 1884 like it says on our logo). Please talk to a Board member or other volunteer (past or present) to ask them if there's something that you can do to keep our club going strong.

In particular, please consider talking with Sandy Nichols about shadowing her this year on how to be Vice President of Programs. She has indicated that this is her last year, and would like to help guide the next VP and teach them all of her tricks of the trade!

My other requests are to embrace coming in person into the club, if you can come, and to participate fully. You will reap the personal and artistic rewards in no time. We will be fully hybrid (unless it says virtual only on our calendar--normally this occurs when the presenter or judge is virtual and/or volunteers can't come in to set up the audio). So, please look at the calendar before driving to the club.

I really want to get to know more of each of you on a personal basis (and I'm sure I'm not the only one who wants to connect). I am a visual learner and so talking to someone in person helps me remember your names and background better. Wearing a name tag helps to accelerate us getting to know each other better.

I may be wearing a mask in person since I'm in a vulnerable group, but it's not mandatory to wear. I highly suggest as a scientist, that you consider if getting the new 2023-2024 Moderna or Pfizer booster covid vaccination is right for you. Rite Aid on Baltimore National Pike in Ellicott City is offering them starting this Saturday, and I'm getting them. Better to protect us all.

Lastly, don't forget that Board meetings are open for all members and they happen the second Thursday of each month. From now on they should be in person, so just show up at 6 pm on a club night.

Hope you're enjoying this cooler weather and going out to take photos. See you, soon.

Best,

Diane

Welcome Back Night - by Lynn Roberts

And what a turnout it was! On Sept 7, 2023, we had our inaugural meeting of the 2023-2024 year, with an in-person get-together at the church (and participation via Zoom for those unfortunate individuals unable to make it in person). Not only did we get to enjoy a delicious dinner catered by Mission Barbecue (thanks to Kenny for this inspired suggestion and for arranging all the details), but we also recognized past achievements though celebrating the awards received in the End of Year Competition for the 2022-2023 year.

The Spread

This was my first exposure to Mission Barbecue, but I'm already a convert. Others must have known how delicious it was, because we had nearly 50 individuals send in their RSVPs – an attendance we haven't had since Covid struck! The menu consisted of buns, Coleslaw, beef brisket, roast turkey, pulled pork, green beans, macaroni and cheese, green salad – and, for vegetarians, fried rice and lo mein (in addition to the already-mentioned buns, Coleslaw, mac and cheese, and green salad). Mission Barbecue also contributed an assortment of barbecue sauces. They are a class act – everything arrived promptly on time, and they set it all up with Sterno heaters or ice cubes to keep warm items warm and cool items cool. Home-made ice tea and lemonade slaked our thirst, in addition to bottled water. And there was cake! No one went hungry, for sure.

Futile Attempt at Restraint

After time for socializing and dinner, we held our End of Year Awards ceremony (see following article for more detailed write up and images). Every image that placed during the 2022-2023 year was considered for year-end awards. These were decided by a panel of three judges, who spent 3.5 hours reviewing all 256 (!) of these digital and print images during a special meeting in June (with a select subset of Board members in attendance). From these contenders, placements (1st through 3rd) were decided in each category (Projected Digital; Monochrome Print; Color Print), all at both the Associate and Unlimited level. Following these 18 placements, additional awards were made for "Best in Category" (in which a single image was selected for recognition from all six of the 1st through 3rd place winners for each of the three categories without regard to whether they had just been recognized in the Associate or Unlimited level), followed by selection of "Image of the Year" from among the three "Best in Category" winners.

Steven Receives Image of the Year

Awardees received certificates and medals, and in the case of "Best in Category" or "Image of the Year", winners also received a trophy or obelisk. Following these awards, special awards were also presented for the Bafford Button, for the person (or, in this year's case, persons) who has/have contributed the most to the BCC during the past year, followed by Medals of Excellence (to individuals with the

Joan Saba Receives 1st Place Medal of Excellence

Welcome Back Night (Continued)

Gordon Risk - Lifetime Achievement

Guy Alton - Bafford Award

Kay Muldoon-Ibrahim - Lifetime Achievement

Lewis Katz
Lifetime Achievement

highest point totals for the year). Finally, four individuals were honored with Lifetime Memberships for their contributions to BCC: Gary Falkner; Kay Muldoon-Ibrahim (who first joined BCC in 1963); Lewis Katz (a member since ~ 2000); and Gordon Risk, a member since the mid 1980s.

We hope the high turnout at this event is a promise of things to come during the 2023-2024 year! Special thanks to everyone who helped arrange this feast, who helped set it up and clean up afterwards, and who recruited the judges, allowed them to deliberate, and who put together the PowerPoint summarizing the results for all to watch.

End of Year Awards - 2022-2023

The Baltimore Camera Club celebrated the end-of year awards for 2022-2023 during Welcome Back Night on on September 7, 20223.

All images that placed (1st through Honorable Mention) in our monthly competitions were automatically considered for the end-of-year awards. Three external judges were used to determine placements. The categories for end-of-year awards were:

Monochrome Print (Associate and Unlimited categories);

Color Print (Associate and Unlimited categories); Projected

Digital (Associate and Unlimited categories).

Placements were First (Gold medal), Second (Silver medal), and Third Place (Bronze medal) in each category. Medals and Certificates were given to each winner.

Beyond these awards, separate awards were made for:

Best in Category (selected from all Gold, Silver and Bronze medal-winning images) for the following categories:

Best Monochrome Print (the Wayne Ballard Award)

Best Color Print (the Graham Cromwell Award)

Best Digital Image (the Dick Smith Award).

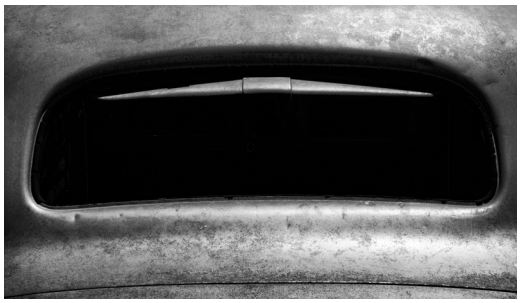
Trophies were given to each of the three first-place finishers. From the three first-place finishers in each Best in Category, one image was selected as "Image of the Year". An obelisk was presented to the winner of "Image of the Year". Finally, each year the Bafford Button is awarded to two individuals who have contributed the most to the Baltimore Camera Club.

BCC also awards a "Medal of Excellence" to the individuals who accumulate the most points during any competition year. First, second, and third place awards are all given.

Here are the recipients of awards for the year 2022-2023. Images are shown on the BCCs website https://www.baltimorecameraclub.org/default.aspx
Monochrome Prints (Associate level), First place,Phyllis Berger ("Monet's Bamboo Forest Punt"); Second place Michael Washington ("Entering Noir"); Third Place Lynn Roberts ("Unfolding").
Monochrome Prints (Unlimited Level). First place Joan Saba ("Mammoth Hot Springs"); Second place Arthur Ransome ("Rear View"); Third place Lewis Katz ("Sentinel).
Best in Category Monochrome Print (Wayne Ballard Award): Arthur Ransome ("Rear View")

"Monet's Bamboo Forest Punt" by Phyllis Berger First Place Monochrome Print, Associate Level

"Mammoth Hot Springs" by Joan Saba First Place Monochrome Print, Unlimited Level



"Rear View" by Arthur Ransome Second Place Monochrome Print & Best in Category Monochrome Print

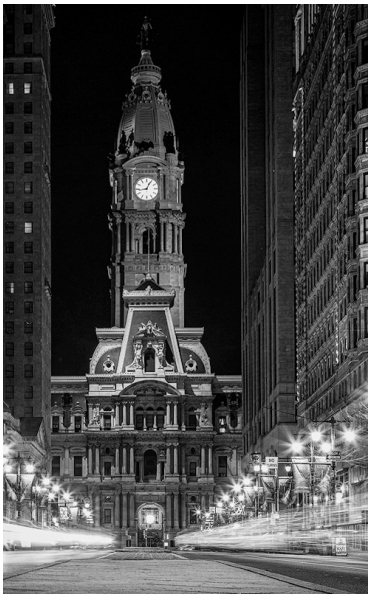
End of Year Awards - 2022-2023 (Continued)

Color Prints (Associate level). First place Mike Navarre ("Up From…"); Second place Vu Nguyen ("Dream"); Third Place Phyllis Berger ("Lady Sings the Blues").
Color Prints (Unlimited Level). First place Joan Saba ("Fast & Furious"); Second place Joan Saba ("Shadows of Morocco"); Third place Sakumar Balachandran ("Senator").
Best Color Print (Graham Cromwell Award) Mike Navarre ("Up From…")

"Fast &Furious" by Joan Saba, First Place Color Print Unlimited Level

"Up From…" by Mike Navarre, First Place Color Print Associate Level and Best in Category Color Print

Projected Digital Image (Associate level). First place Christopher Frisone ("Fly by Night"); Second place Christopher Frisone ("A View From Above"); Third place Christopher Frisone ("Dark Days Ahead").
Projected Digital Image (Unlimited level). First place Steven Sattler ("Taking a Break"); Second place Charles Levie ("Military Mom"); Third place Steven Sattler ("Wheels Down").
Best Projected Digital Image: Steven Sattler ("Taking a Break")

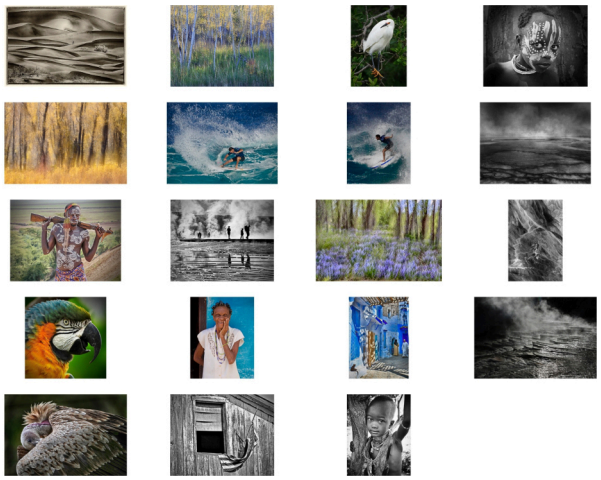


"Fly by Night" by Christopher Frisone. First Place Projected Digital Associate Level

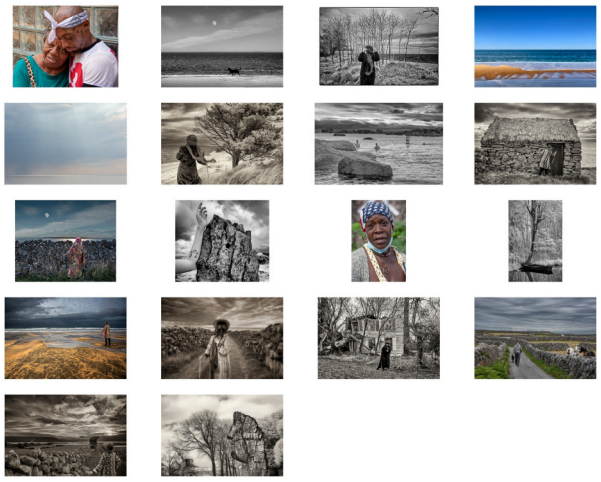
"Taking a Break" by Steven Sattler First Place Projected Digital Unlimited Level, Best in Category Projected Digital, and Image of the Year

End of Year Awards - 2022-2023 (Continued)

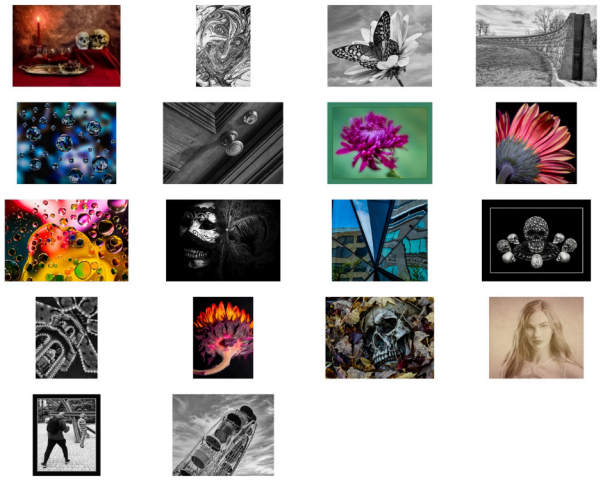
Medals of Excellence: First Place goes to Joan Saba, Second Place goes to Phyllis Berger and Third Place goes to Tina Whitehead.



Joan Saba



Phyllis Berger



Tina Whitehead

Bafford Button

This award is presented to an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the Baltimore Camera Club over the past year. Normally there is only one recipient, but this year the Board voted to award it to two recipients: Guy Alston & Kent Sutorius.

Guy volunteered many hours in maintaining and updating the total multimedia system for BCC. Included in his volunteer work was the set up and tear down of equipment for all meetings. There are many times that Guy would go to the church during the week to troubleshoot equipment and make sure everything is operational. Guy is also a fount of information when it comes it IT issues and IT software. We are very fortunate it have him volunteering in these areas.

Kent has volunteered many hours maintaining the website and servicing members that need help with the website. He sets up all the competitions on the website and through Competition Manager uploads winning images to the website. He often runs Competition Manager for the Digital competitions. He is also Associate Editor of Focal Point Magazine and helps contribute articles and material. Kent is also seen helping set up meetings at the church.

Member Spotlight - Jennifer Smutek

What got you interested in photography?

I've been fascinated with photography for as long as I can remember. In fact, my favorite toy as a tot was a little Tomy Snappy Shots polaroid-inspired camera. When I was about 8, my parents gave me a little blue Fisher Price 110 camera with those smelly flash cubes. I can remember turning my sister's baby blankets into backdrops and setting up flashlights as mock studio lights to photograph my cat & dolls.

I always knew I wanted to be a professional photographer; and, by the time I reached high school, my father was able to scrape together enough money to get my first "real" camera- a used Pentax K1000 with a 50mm lens. It was then that I was able to really begin studying the craft. I was delighted in every aspect of it- from working with a subject & capturing a moment by clicking the shutter, to watching time reappear under the smell of stop bath in the glow of a red light. I was (still am) in love with the idea of freezing a moment in time and making it reappear. Sensory magic.

What types of photography are you interested in?

As a professional, I love documenting people and their stories & capturing emotion- so my career as a wedding photographer has been a great fit for me. I enjoy working with different people & families every weekend and capturing their unique day. Long after we are gone, our descendants will still have pictures. This is incredibly important to me; both for my family, and in being able to provide that to other families.

However, it wasn't until my 40's that I discovered photography as a hobby. In 2020, when the world shut down, I suddenly had no clients to photograph. It was only then that I started wandering my neighborhood, with my camera, and getting lost in the process. It was the first time in my life that I was exploring photography simply for fun and my own enjoyment, rather than learning skill or producing something for a client- and, as a result, I got to fall in love with photography all over again. I enjoy wandering the same route over and over again, seeing just how many new ways I can capture the same space. It's amazing to me the subtle changes that take place between days or sometimes seconds.

For my hobby photography I find a great deal of fun in abstract nature, macro, and what my friends affectionately call my "Hitchcock birds". With wedding photography, my goal is to make my camera capture the day in a way that someone who is there would experience it. But with my hobby photography, instead of trying to make my camera capture a subject the way our human eyes see it, I take great thrill in seeing the world like a camera. I like to walk and squint and take in the world in highlights/shadows. I do very little editing with my hobby work and take great delight when I've photographed a subject just as it is in front of me, but yet it confuses a viewer for a moment. Photographic trickery, if you will. I

Member Spotlight - Jennifer Smutek (Continued)

get a kick out of the juxtaposition of approach between my professional and hobby work and I'm looking forward to seeing how the two might merge in the future.

What camera/lenses do you use?

I started my professional career with Nikon and still shoot a combination of Nikon DLSR & mirrorless today. My hobby camera (and favorite system I've ever had the pleasure of using) is, by far, my Fuji system. I often refer to my Nikons as my "pick up trucks"- you know- the heavy-lifting system that I know can get any job done, while I refer to my Fuji as my "Harley". Whenever I want to get lost in having some fun with photography, I grab my Fuji and pound some pavement.

I'm primarily a prime shooter, as I only own one zoom between the two systems. Sometimes I'll carry more than one lens, but usually I find a lot of fun in limiting myself to one lens for a bit, and forcing myself to see in one focal length for a day (or sometimes week or month) and then switching it up after a while. That said, I own 4 macro lenses; as I find a lot of joy in entering tiny little worlds we usually shuffle by, without notice.

Are there any achievements you have received that are special to you?

I can't say that I've achieved special awards or anything with my photography. The best achievement for me is when someone's family member takes the time to call or write to me, to tell me how much they love a particular image I've taken, or how they felt in viewing their loved one's gallery.

One of my more recent accomplishments, and something I am hoping to grow, was hosting a free creative photography class for children, earlier this year. It seems like once children get interested in an activity, we encourage proficiency over gratification & I wanted children to explore photography simply for the joy of it. I had a lot of fun exploring the craft with a group of young creatives, and hope to offer the program again this coming winter.

In all, photography has probably had the greatest influence on me as a person. It was a form of creative play as a young child, and the darkroom was a place to escape to, as a shy teen. I am significantly more comfortable engaging with people through a viewfinder than without one, and having a camera with me gives me a sense of permission and purpose to be in a space. It's a lovely craft and I look forward to finding new ways to explore it.

Notes from the Field – BCC Field Shoot to Lucky Lane Farm by Lynn Roberts (Photos: Mike Washington)

On April 23, 2023, Lynn Roberts hosted the second annual field shoot at Lucky Lane Farm, located in northern Baltimore County. The timing was selected to coincide with pasture growth, grass being much more photogenic than the mud of winter, as well as the introduction of the lambs (44 born this spring) to pasture. The plan is also to hold this event long enough in advance of the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival (always held the first full weekend in May at the Howard County Fairgrounds) to enable BCC members to submit images to the Festival's photography competition. Rules and categories for this competition are posted at: https://sheepandwool.org/festival/sheep-photo-competition/ . Note that there is no fee to enter the competition (though images that place are awarded prize money). There is a $10 fee to attend MSWF (which offers many photogenic opportunities, as well as great fair food), but I spend all weekend (Friday through Sunday) there and am happy to transport photos to MSWF and also collect them from the at the conclusion of the event Sunday evening.

The weather cooperated this year for the field shoot, pastures were lush, and the lambs frolicked appropriately. The field shoot provides an opportunity for individuals to practice their skills with action photography, as most of the sheep and lambs are sufficiently shy of strangers that they won't allow close approaches.

Telephoto lenses are recommended to capture the lambs in action, and boots are a necessity (poop happens on a working farm). Post-processing offers its own challenges in order to balance the contrast between snowy white and coal-black lambs. This year we also had a small clutch of chicks that had just been hatched out by a hen determined to be a mama, but she wasn't very cooperative in leading her babies out into the sunlight, preferring the cover of an open shed.

Lucky Lane Farm is located less than 15 minutes from Ladew Topiary Gardens in Monkton (https://www.ladewgardens.com/), so if you're looking to combine an outing to the farm with another nearby photo opportunity, this is one option. It's also located about 20 minutes from the parking lot closest to Kilgore Falls, Maryland's second highest waterfall (best visited before Memorial Day or after Labor Day): https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/Rocks/Falling-Branch.aspx .

Baltimore Camera Club Maryland Zoo Photoshoot – by Jim Voeglein

Kenny Epps, our BCC guru of photoshoots, had set up a meet-up on July 22, 2023, at the Maryland Zoo in Druid Hill Park which is in Northwest Baltimore City. It was a beautiful sunny day, perfect for a photographic excursion but, it was July, in Baltimore, and the heat and humidity were ever present.

The group which consisted of Ola Horn, Mimi Godfrey, Tricia Simmons, Kenny and I met at the main entrance to the Zoo. Ola, actually, met us inside, but we all had a wonderful time.

Our first stop was the Prairie Dog enclosure. Fortunately, it was feeding time and all those little varmints were chomping down on the leafy vegetables that the zoo attendants had provided. This gave us ample time to get these critters while they scurried about and fed on their leafy lunch. Unfortunately, because they were all out and about looking for their meal, none of the Prairie Dogs were in the quintessential pose of popping out of one the many burrows.

The next stop was the Penguin Encounter. This area not only had a large huddle of penguins but there were pelicans, egrets and other water birds. It is always a challenge when shooting wildlife in a zoo environment and have the animals look like they are in their natural habitat. I tended to shoot close in to avoid any human made structures. I primarily used my 100-400 mm Tokina lens for most of the time. That lens is sharp and has plenty of reach. I also had with me my 2x extender, but opted not to use it.

Moving on we visited the brown bear exhibit. This was a popular spot so it was hard to get a decent shot. The enclosure had Lexan or glass panels so you could see the bears without the use of bars but that material isn't very

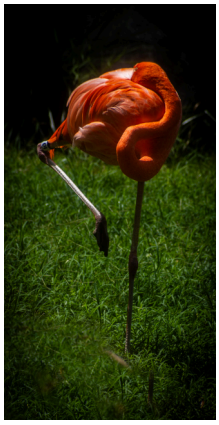
conducive for getting a clean, sharp image. I moved around and was able to get some pictures from a higher vantage point and avoided shooting through the glass. The trick was waiting for the bears to move into a position that made for a decent composition.

We pretty much stayed together as a group which is what is nice about these photo shoots. Not only do you get the opportunity to get out and shoot but you get to know your fellow club members. We all learn from each other no matter what our skill level. Everyone has a unique approach to how they photograph and how they approach the subject at hand. But you also learn about each other on a more personal and extended timeline level. At club meetings, in person, we get to chat for maybe half an hour before the meeting begins, and on Zoom you only get a snippet of who someone is. I digress.

On our way to the African Journey area of the Zoo we passed by the Flamingo area. This is where we caught up with Ola or rather, she caught up with us. Such a colorful bird. Patience is the word of the day with them. Trying to get that perfect composition we were all trying to get a good position but there is a lot of foliage and people that needed to be dealt with but I think I got some nice shots there.

In the African Journey area we had quite the smorgasbord of options to shoot: from Rhinos, to Elephants, to Zebra, to Tortoises and Giraffes. Those pens are quite large and the animals have room to move about and so did we. We started to spread out a little because the exhibits were all close to each other.

At this point we had seen about half of the African Journey Area. It was getting near noontime and the sun was taking its toll. Ola had another commitment and Tricia, Mimi and I opted to call it a day. We had a fantastic time together and looked forward to more photoshoots. Kenny, being the trooper he is, stayed on. I believe he was trying to make it to the primates. In any case, thank you Kenny for setting this shoot up and I look forward to more in the future.

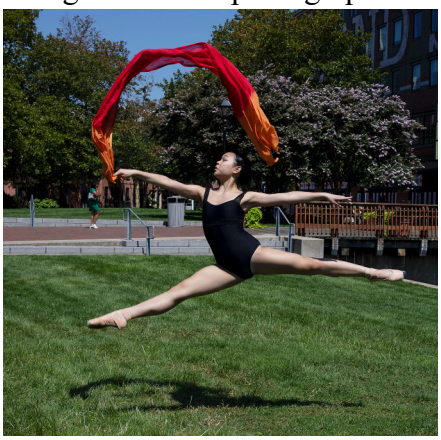


If you have any ideas for any place the club could go for a day or night shoot please let leadership know.

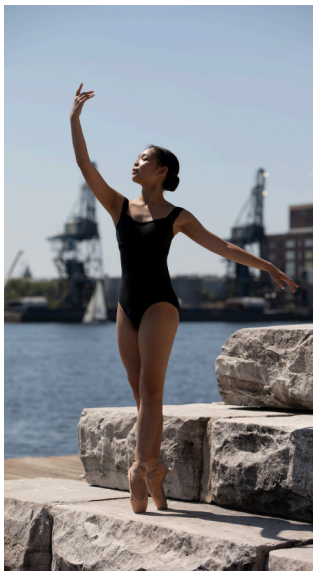
Tiptoeing Through Fells Point

by Tricia Simmons

It was a beautiful summer morning as I headed out to meet Kenny Epps and a gaggle of other photographers along the waterfront in Fells Point. The photo shoot was scheduled from 10am-2pm with very specific scenic areas to cover and poses to capture. Kenny had arranged for us to photograph an accomplished young ballerina in different locations in Fells Point. The ballerina had two wardrobe changes and props to make her images pop. This will be the third time I have been involved in this type of photoshoot with Kenny. Each time I had the great experience of meeting different photographers and sharing our experiences and techniques.



On this shot, Kenny had all the locations for photographing plotted with the various poses the ballerina would perform. The ballerina was very willing and gracious enough to perform some very complicated moves which I was able to capture with my camera. I always feel very comfortable asking for assistance if I need it from Kenny or any of the other photographers. After these outings, I was able to feel more confident with learning techniques and poses for portrait photography. At one point as we were photographing the ballerina near" The Horse You Came In On", a bar in the area, various people in cars and on foot stopped to ask what was happening. For a moment I imagined myself a photographer for the Associated Press, capturing a momentous occasion with lasting images for the world to see. Maybe someday. I came home with 600 images to review and edit. What a great day! I hope you enjoy the ones I have included. Looking forward to the next event!



MPA Corner - by Steve Sattler

What Does MPA and Onyx Have in Common?

According to Greek legend, onyx formed after Cupid trimmed the fingernails of Venus, the goddess of love. After being clipped, the nails turned into stones, effectively immortalizing her. Cleopatra was said to believe that onyx stones had protective powers. In ancient Indian and Persian tales onyx is referred to as a protector from evil.

Well, we at MPA love history and folklore, however, we think of onyx as the *seventh anniversary gemstone*. It is so hard to believe that MPA started its 7th year of operations on September 1.

Looking back, we have so much to be proud of such as the contests, gallery shows, Odyssey of Light, Artist Spotlight, Judge Certification Program, Critique Program, Grant Program, and the over $114,000 MPA has raised, combined, for Flashes of Hope and the Maryland Food Bank. All of these accomplishments could not have been achieved without the support of all 26 affiliated clubs and especially all of you who participate in our events and activities.

Most organizations would rest on their laurels, however, MPA has a few new programs you'll hear more about in the near future. The "Artist Spotlight – The Podcast" series will officially launch mid-October. There will be two podcasts every month and there are 11 artists already committed, one being Art Wolfe. We also have professional team sports photographers and Pulitzer prize-winning photographers lined up too. We hope you'll take time and listen to a few podcasts at your convenience and give us some feedback.

Another new initiative involves the work from MPA's Youth Engagement Committee. MPA and the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts will be working together to educate middle and high school students on how to improve their images prior to submitting them into a national youth photo contest. MPA's certified judges are involved, as is the Professional Photographers Association (PPA) who is interested in working with MPA on youth engagement.

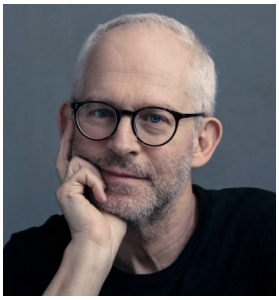
The first six years were very exciting, and we expect this year of onyx to be no different. At the very least onyx will hopefully give us protective powers from all that is evil.

BCC Summer Programs

Kent Sutorius

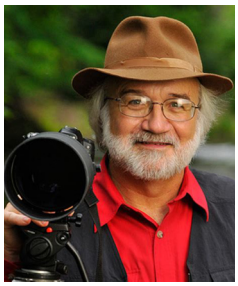
BCC had some fabulous summer program presentations in 2023 that Sandy Nichols organized.

In July we were introduced to **Robert Tuschman** who



has exhibited widely both in the US and internationally. He is known for blending scenes of dollhouse furniture with real-life models using Photoshop. His first series, "*Hopper Meditations*", was inspired by his original love for painting, and it was directly inspired by the painter Edward Hopper. He produced similar works, "*Once Upon A Time In Kazimierz,*" inspired by where her wife grew up and "*My Childhood Reassembled*", where he created a miniature of his '60s Midwestern suburban childhood home and his life. It was fascinating as he revealed how he meticulously recreated these dollhouse scenes and the lighting he used to shot the dollhouse scenes and the live models. He impressed upon us how lighting is such an important ingredient to incorporating his models and his dollhouse scenes. His presentation is on the BCC YouTube channel.

We also had the privilege of having Annapolis, MD local **Bob Krist** speak to us on, "Authentic Travel Photography in the Age of Instagram". Bob is a well know National Geographic Photographer and has been named, "Travel Photographer of the Year" by the Society of American Travel Writers three times. One of more recent books is a black and white monograph of portraits and landscapes called *Old Souls & Timeless Places.* He pointed out travel photography has changed because the world has gotten smaller due to accessible travel, media access is faster and more universal and people have shot everything mostly with their phone. More importantly travel photography has become more about us than them. Bob then presented us with a number of travel photos and portraits and the story behind each image. He then finished with tips on making travel photography more authentic.



- Stay away from big cruise ships.
- Try visiting "second cities" to get the real feel of the region.
- Join a service program that puts you in front of the local people.
- Spend an extra amount of time in one place so the people get to know you.

His presentation isn't on our YouTube channel but you can find it here, https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/videos/photography/authentic-travel-photography-in-the-age-of-instagram

In early August, we were inspired by **Jennifer King's** presentation, "Image Design: Using the Principles of Design to Create More Dramatic Photos". Jennifer has a background in Design and learned how much design principles played in creating effective images. She presented many of her beautiful images to explain the design principles.

She mentioned that people may know these principles but would explain the history and use of the principles.

- Aesthetics or visual appeal to our eyes. One design principle that shows up in the stars, flowers, sea shells, DNA, etc. is the Fibonacci or Golden spiral. The other principle is the Rule (Tool) of Thirds often works when composing an image.
- Asking yourself what is the "hero of the image". Make sure the hero is the prominent thing you want the person to see. This may dictate the use of the above principles. It may dictate where your horizon line is.
- Dominant lines – often will make the horizon less noticeable.
- Leading lines - led you toward the hero or to enter the image.
- Foreground details – use when you have strong foreground, a good middle and good background.
- The "IT" or unique factor – do research where you are going and see if there are unique things you should look for when visiting the area.
- Perspective – move around and get different views – on the ground, kneeling, standing, vertical vs. horizontal.
- Emphasize – shallow depth of field to emphasize the foreground.

BCC Summer Programs (Cont.)
Kent Sutorius

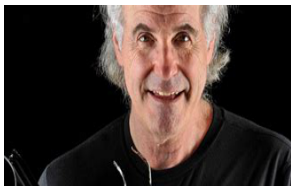
- Abstract – are great because our mind wants to figure out what is going on.

- Monochrome – or try to minimize the color in an image. Make the colors cooler or warmers. Use vignetting to tunnel the viewpoint.

- Patterns & Textures to direct the eye.

- Simplify – learn to shoot images that are simple in line, color and form

Jennifer is honored to be a Moab by Legion Master Photographer, Singh-Ray Filters Ambassador and one of the premier black and white photographers in the country. She is recognized as "1 of 15 Amazing Women to Follow" by *500px*, and is the Founder of PHOTOGRAPHY for the FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER. Her presentation is on the BCC YouTube channel.



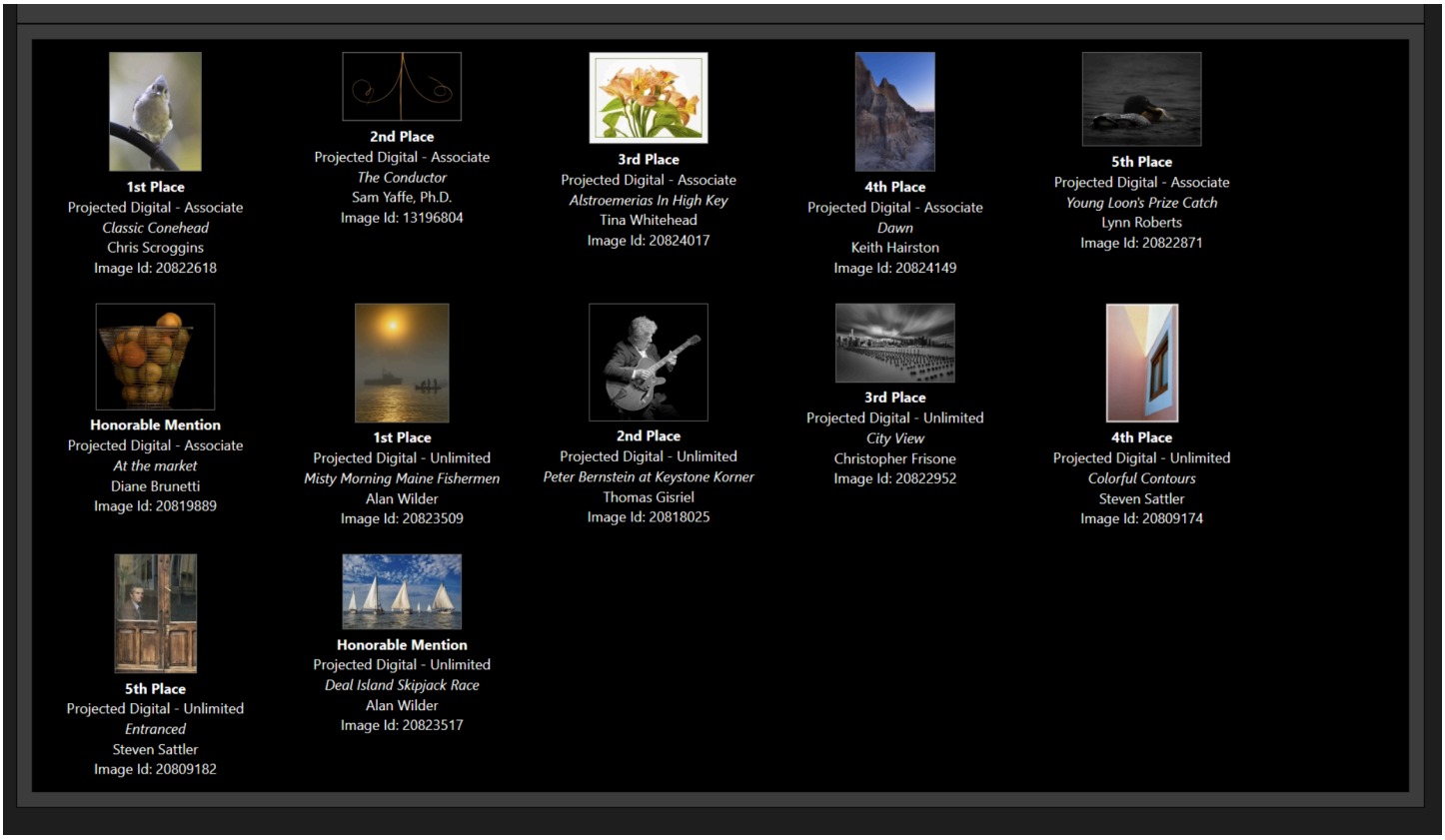
The last program for the summer was with **Rick Hulbert** and his presentation: "*The Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Photography . . . the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*".

Rick mentioned our eye will react to an image without thinking and before reading any reading text. Oftentimes we will send the image to someone else without reading the text. We could be sending something fallacious if we are not careful because of AI word generated art is so realistic.

The Good – AI assisted camera controls and features in editing software. Rick showed many AI word generated images he created with Adobe's Firefly and MidJourney software. He said that these products can inspire creativity for one's photographic compositions.
The Bad – AI generated images that are presented as real but are fake. This can be an issue with photography competitions and copyright issues. It is getting harder to differentiate real versus fake photos. Rick suggested Camera Clubs put something in their competition rules that AI word generated images be disqualified.
The Ugly – Deep fake images of discrimination privacy violations and copyright theft. Such images can present a false sense of reality in social and political issues.

Rick Hulbert's photography is informed from his 4-decade background as a Professional Architect and Urban Designer. He is a "Life Member" of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, and a "Fellow" of The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Rick is currently an instructor of photography at Simon Fraser University and has lectured colleges and universities in Vancouver, Canada, and has led multi-day photo-workshops throughout Europe and North America. His presentation is on the BCC YouTube channel.

September 2023 - Projected Digital Competition



1st Place
Projected Digital - Associate
Classic Conehead
Chris Scroggins
Image Id: 20822618

2nd Place
Projected Digital - Associate
The Conductor
Sam Yaffe, Ph.D.
Image Id: 13196804

3rd Place
Projected Digital - Associate
Alstroemerias In High Key
Tina Whitehead
Image Id: 20824017

4th Place
Projected Digital - Associate
Dawn
Keith Hairston
Image Id: 20824149

5th Place
Projected Digital - Associate
Young Loon's Prize Catch
Lynn Roberts
Image Id: 20822871

Honorable Mention
Projected Digital - Associate
At the market
Diane Brunetti
Image Id: 20819889

1st Place
Projected Digital - Unlimited
Misty Morning Maine Fishermen
Alan Wilder
Image Id: 20823509

2nd Place
Projected Digital - Unlimited
Peter Bernstein at Keystone Korner
Thomas Gisriel
Image Id: 20818025

3rd Place
Projected Digital - Unlimited
City View
Christopher Frisone
Image Id: 20822952

4th Place
Projected Digital - Unlimited
Colorful Contours
Steven Sattler
Image Id: 20809174

5th Place
Projected Digital - Unlimited
Entranced
Steven Sattler
Image Id: 20809182

Honorable Mention
Projected Digital - Unlimited
Deal Island Skipjack Race
Alan Wilder
Image Id: 20823517

September 2023 - Monochrome Print Competition

1st Place
Monochrome Print - Associate
Angel At The Gate
Michael Washington
Image Id: 21024138

2nd Place
Monochrome Print - Associate
Vintage Wheels
Tina Whitehead
Image Id: 21046964

3rd Place
Monochrome Print - Associate
Web
Jennifer Smutek
Image Id: 21023468

4th Place
Monochrome Print - Associate
Final Bow
Jennifer Smutek
Image Id: 21023441

5th Place
Monochrome Print - Associate
Ghost Ship
Kent Sutorius
Image Id: 21024073

Honorable Mention
Monochrome Print - Associate
In A World Of Her Own
Tina Whitehead
Image Id: 21046956

1st Place
Monochrome Print - Unlimited
Taking Flight
Joan Saba
Image Id: 21025282

2nd Place
Monochrome Print - Unlimited
Quarom
Sukumar Balachandran
Image Id: 21056188

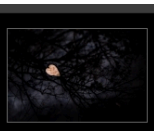
3rd Place
Monochrome Print - Unlimited
Here comes the sun
Sukumar Balachandran
Image Id: 21056153

4th Place
Monochrome Print - Unlimited
Twisted Glory
James Voeglein
Image Id: 21057346

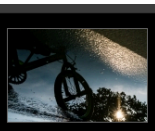
5th Place
Monochrome Print - Unlimited
Weathered
Sukumar Balachandran
Image Id: 21056161

Honorable Mention
Monochrome Print - Unlimited
Benz Caps (21057338)
James Voeglein
Image Id: 21057338

September 2023 - Color Print Competition



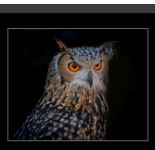
1st Place
Color Print - Associate
Floating Heart
Jennifer Smutek
Image Id: 21023433



2nd Place
Color Print - Associate
Puddle Jumper
Jennifer Smutek
Image Id: 21023425

3rd Place
Color Print - Associate
Iris Trio
Kent Sutorius
Image Id: 21024065

4th Place
Color Print - Associate
A Window to the Past
phyllis berger, Phyllis
Image Id: 21061157

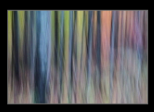


5th Place
Color Print - Associate
The Wise One
Charles Levie
Image Id: 21032041

Honorable Mention
Color Print - Associate
Red Burst
Thomas Gisriel
Image Id: 21034397

1st Place
Color Print - Unlimited
The Snake Charmer
Joan Saba
Image Id: 21025347

2nd Place
Color Print - Unlimited
Colors of the Canyon
Sukumar Balachandran
Image Id: 21056137



3rd Place
Color Print - Unlimited
Stand of Trees
James Voeglein
Image Id: 21064873

Honorable Mention
Color Print - Unlimited
Kalalau Valley
James Voeglein
Image Id: 11376813

September 2023
Competition Point Standings

Baltimore Camera Club standings as of competition date 09/28/2023

Associate Digital		Associate Monochrome		Associate Color	
Lynn Roberts	97	Sandy Nichols	98	Jim Eichelman	83
Sandy Nichols	95	Michael Washington	66	Errol Bennett	80
Linda Lund	92	Walter Levy	65	Guy Alston	74
Phyllis Berger	84	Tina Whitehead	60	Scott Houston	74
Michael Washington	73	Charles Levie	46	Walter Levy	73
Sam Yaffe	63	Camellia Ibrahim	40	Thomas Anderson	72
Chris Scroggins	62	Errol Bennett	39	George Saba	57
Camellia Ibrahim	58	Scott Houston	36	Charles Levie	57
Keith Hairston	58	Keith Hairston	33	Lynn Roberts	54
Errol Bennett	58	Thomas Anderson	31	Kenny Epps	49
Nelson Smith	43	Michael Navarre	29	Arthur Ransome	48
Tina Whitehead	42	Lynn Roberts	28	Tina Whitehead	47
Roger Johns	34	David Paul	28	Keith Hairston	46
James Horn	28	Guy Alston	24	Phyllis Berger	44
Douglas Miller	26	Tom Gisriel	24	Michael Washington	40
Jerry Taylor	25	Nelson Smith	21	Kent Sutorius	35
Diane Brunetti	25	Jennifer Smutek	19	Michael Navarre	31
Guy Alston	24	Kenny Epps	16	Jennifer Smutek	30
Thomas Anderson	23	Jerry Taylor	14	Marilyn LeMay Patterson	27
Laura Kelehan	21	George Saba	13	Camellia Ibrahim	26
Alexandria Montanio	18	Kent Sutorius	13	Vu Nguyen	21
Marilyn Gould	18	Roger Johns	8	David Paul	18
Marcus Dagold	18	Vu Nguyen	8	Tom Gisriel	17
Mel Holden	18	Diane Bovenkamp	8	Sandy Nichols	17
Jennifer Smutek	17	Diane Brunetti	7	Jerry Taylor	13
Kent Sutorius	16	Marilyn LeMay Patterson	5	Nelson Smith	9
Vu Nguyen	14	Eve Bond	4	Marcus Dagold	8
Rosalind Perry	13	Christophe Casamassima	3	Roger Johns	8
Wendy Miller	11	Peter Hauser	1	Carl Lancaster	8
Larry Leasner	5			Rosalind Perry	7
Dan Gutwein	5			Christophe Casamassima	6
Nick & Cynthia Islin	3			Eve Bond	5
Cyril Cook	1			Mel Holden	5
				Douglas Miller	3

Unlimited Digital		Unlimited Monochrome		Unlimited Color		MOE Points	
Sukumar Balachandran	714	Arthur Ransome	1032	Joan Saba	650	Jennifer Smutek	10
Joan Saba	467	Gary Faulkner	378	Gary Faulkner	503	Sukumar Balachandran	9
Arthur Ransome	359	Joan Saba	364	Roger Miller	371	Joan Saba	8
David Paul	336	Kay Muldoon-Ibrahim	330	Kay Muldoon-Ibrahim	354	Tina Whitehead	6
Steven Sattler	307	Sukumar Balachandran	325	Lewis Katz	325	Alan Wilder	5
Alan Wilder	261	Roger Miller	282	Kaye Flamm	317	James Voeglein	5
Kay Muldoon-Ibrahim	213	Jon Meyer	246	Sukumar Balachandran	211	Tom Gisriel	4
Kaye Flamm	212	Kaye Flamm	211	Jon Meyer	198	Chris Scroggins	4
Roger Miller	205	Richard Eskin	188	James Voeglein	169	Michael Washington	4
Richard Eskin	204	Jim Eichelman	153	Harry Bosk	165	Sam Yaffe	3
Charles Levie	204	Paul Biederman	144	Paul Biederman	161	Kent Sutorius	3
Walter Levy	193	Steven Dembo	141	Richard Eskin	155	Christopher Frisone	2
Harry Bosk	173	Richard Caplan	139	Vella Kendall	132	Steven Sattler	2
Vella Kendall	162	Linda Lund	136	Steven Dembo	123	Diane Brunetti	1
Lewis Katz	154	Ran Zeimer	134	Linda Lund	107	Charles Levie	1
Kenny Epps	144	James Voeglein	128	Ran Zeimer	103	Keith Hairston	1
Tony Mordente	141	Lewis Katz	127			Lynn Roberts	1
Gary Faulkner	130	Vella Kendall	117			Phyllis Berger	1
Scott Houston	130	Harry Bosk	111				
Jim Eichelman	126	Phyllis Berger	106				
Christopher Frisone	125						
Tom Gisriel	124						
James Voeglein	120						
Ran Zeimer	118						
Diane Bovenkamp	118						
Paul Biederman	117						
Vickie Gray	109						
George Saba	101						
Michael Navarre	99						
Steven Dembo	64						
Jon Meyer	29						

Coming Attractions
October - December

Sep 14	**Digital Competition 1**	
Sep 21	**Program 3**	**Betsy Wilson: "A Different Point of View"** **Description**: Looking to enhance your images with an unusual or interesting new look? Need some ideas to jumpstart a photo slump or spark some new creativity? Join us as presenter Betsy Wilson shows us some new twists to spark ideas to make your images look different than the ordinary. A different point of view can be quite literal, such as shooting from up high or down low, or it can mean making use of other tools such as creative depth-of-field or specialty lenses. Or maybe, it is when we, the photographer, look at our subject, or even ourselves, in a different way. Many images and techniques will be shared to enrich any photographer's portfolio of new and very different ways to add some "wow" to images. **Biography:** Betsy began learning photography after retiring from a career as a newspaper publisher. Her husband Jim gave her his hand-me-down camera and a lot of encouragement, and he now claims he created a monster. Betsy is an active member of the Chester County Camera Club, and has given numerous presentations and led workshops for area camera clubs. You can see more of her images at Betsy and Jim's website www.LetsCaptureTheMoment.com
Sep 28	**Print Competition 1**	
Oct 5	**Digital Competition 2**	**Theme: Water -** in all its forms (liquid, ice, snow, steam, mist, clouds, rain, fog, reflections, etc.
Oct 12	**Program 4**	**Member Critique Night: "Anything Goes"** One image per member. Upload image to Visual Pursuits/ "Member Programs – Critiques" Gallery/'Member Critique, October 12, Critique Gallery Upload Instructions
Oct 13-15	**Fall Trip**	**Mingo, WV** We will be staying at The Mingo Lodge and Saloon located right outside of Mingo on route 219. This is a very rural part of West Virginia and if we get lucky it will be a peak foliage weekend. The number to call for reservations at the lodge is 304-339-6917. Please feel free to contact Lewis Katz at olympus21209@yahoo.com or at 410-446-6496 if you have any questions.

Coming Attractions
October - December (Continued)

Oct 19	**Print Competition 2**	
Oct 26	**Program 5**	**MPA Maryland Master with Les Picker**
Nov 2	**Digital Competition 3**	**Theme: General**
Nov 9	**Program 6**	**David duChemin: The Heart of the Photograph"** **Description**: A compelling photograph is more than visual. It's visceral. We don't only see it, we feel it. It's more than just focusing our lenses; it's also focusing the attention of those who will experience our photographs. Great gear helps, but what about the other tools? What about juxtaposition and mystery, story, mood, depth, and energy? What about the power of a great moment? And when it comes to gear, is it enough that we have all the tools, like great optics, or should we be developing a sensitivity to the unique ways in which different focal lengths amplify the feeling of a scene when used well? The Heart of the Photograph is an inspiring presentation about these very ideas, and it will change the way you make your photographs and reignite the spark if it has cooled off. **Biography:** Photographer and best-selling author David duChemin has taught this amazing craft on all seven continents, and has appeared on stages for companies like Amazon and Apple to teach the human side of this craft. With over 35 years of experience making photographs, his calling is to help photographers make photographs that are more than just sharp and well-exposed. David's Website: https://davidduchemin.com/
Nov 16	**Print Competition 3**	
Nov 23	**No Meeting**	
Nov 30	**Program 7**	**Member Critique Night:** One image per member. Upload image to Visual Pursuits/ "Member Programs – Critiques" Gallery/'Member Critique, Nov. 30, Critique Gallery Upload Instructions
Dec 7	**Digital Competition 4**	**Theme: Trees** - and parts of trees
Dec 14	**PARTY**	Our Annual Holiday Part
Dec 21	**No Meeting**	
Dec 28	**No Meeting**	

Focal Point

Baltimore Camera Club

The Oldest Continually-Operating Photographic Society in the USA (Incorporated in 1884)

Parting Shot

"Rear View" by Arthur Ransome - Best in Category - Monochrome

Baltimore Camera Club is a Charter Member Club of the Photographic Society of America

Join Now - Photographic Society of America (psa-photo.org)
PSA-Member Clubs and Councils Overview
PSA Mid-Atlantic Chapter (PSA-MAC)
BCC is a Member of the Maryland Photographic Alliance
www.mdphotoalliance.org

2023 Photo Festival
Williamsburg, Virginia

September 27 to 30, 2023
Tours September 25-27
Conference Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton, Williamsburg, VA