



Science Museum Camera Club



Photo by Tom Kredo
[Find out more on page 7](#)

December 2020



FORMAT



Science Museum Camera Club

*Photography
Brings Us Together*

FORMAT

Buffalo

May 2020
Volume 50, Number 1

President's Message

It's Holiday Time and I hope you & your families will all be able to celebrate, social distance and stay safe at the same time. We have survived 4 months of Virtual meetings and competitions. It's been different but also enjoyable sitting at home watching competitions and listening to speakers. We have had some very good speakers and more to come. Having these outside professionals as speakers is not something we could do if we were meeting at the Museum. The downside to this is we can't see or talk to each other. I'm sure we will appreciate our friendships and in-person meetings much more once we can resume meeting at the Museum, hopefully in September.

Camera Club Photography is FUN and educational, in this difficult time I think we are doing a good job and have had good participation at Competitions, Program meetings, Educational Night and our "Photo Adventure" walkabouts and ZOOM Review meetings.

Thank You to everyone for attending meetings, helping us stay engaged and active in our Photographic endeavors.

We have a new year on the horizon and promises of Vaccines soon to come. Enjoy your holidays, take lots of pictures and we will see you online in January.

Sharon Dentice
President, SMCC

Meetings :

1st & 3rd Wednesday
6:30 PM

September - May

1st Wednesday - competition
3rd Wednesday - program

Buffalo Museum of Science
1020 Humboldt Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14411-1293

Website :

smcc.photoclubservices.com

Facebook :

[Find us on Facebook](#)

Buffalo Science Museum
Camera Club

Member :

Niagara Frontier Regional
Camera Clubs
NFRCC.org

Photographic Society
of America
PSA-photo.org



Format Editor :

Cheryl Belczak
Email ideas & submissions to
cheryl@belczak.net

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Current Officers:

Click on an Officer's name to send them a thank you, comment or question.

President: [Sharon Dentice](#)

VP Program Chair: [Kevin Flint](#)

Print Competition Chairs:

Chair: [Charles Bartolotta](#)

Co-Chair: [Mike Dziak](#)

Projected Image Competition Chairs:

Chair: [Billy Callaghan](#)

Co-Chair: [Jeffrey Hayward](#)

Recording Secretary: [Sande Barrett](#)

Treasurer: [Ted Lesinski](#)

Historian: [Sande Barrett](#)

Directors:

[Cathi Barbera](#) (Membership)

[Mike Dziak](#) (Print Assistance)

[John Griffin](#) (New Member Competition)

[Cheryl Belczak](#) (Format Newsletter)

Past President: [Mary Lou Frost](#)

Special Committees:

[Esther Kowal-Bukata](#): Refreshments

[Billy Callaghan](#): Web Master

[Cheryl Belczak](#): Museum Picture Cabinet

We're having a virtual Holiday Party this year! Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 7 PM

Billy will send out the registration link as the date nears.

Featured Programs:

The Dorothy Ralph Essay Competition

Written essays here.

and the "Get Acquainted" Project

See project details on next page.

Make your meeting space festive, grab a drink and a snack then relax with your SMCC friends.

We look forward to seeing you!

“Get Acquainted” Project

All members! Please create a card featuring a sample of your photography and that beautiful face of yours.

Since we will probably be entirely virtual this year, Mary Lou has put together a “Getting Acquainted project” for the Holiday party. This will be a great way to put a face with a name for new members and everyone it feels like we haven’t seen in ages. Sharon sent out the link to the instructions and here it is again in case you missed it:

[Science Museum Camera Club
Get Acquainted Project](#)

Quick Overview

Deadline: December 9

Finished “card” size: digital competition size (Images may not exceed 1920 pixels wide by 1080 pixels high)

Include: A photo of you, a photo representing your photography, your name and a holiday greeting.

See Mary Lou’s sample below. Make your card reflect your personal style.

For complete details and tutorials to put this together, click here

HOLIDAY
GREETINGS



from the Underwater World
Mary Lou Frost

2020-2021 Science Museum Camera Club Schedule

| Date | Schedule | Program Description |
|------------|-------------------|--|
| 12/2/20 | Competition #3 | Judge: |
| 12/9/20 | Education Night | Topaz Editing Software: Greg Rostami will review the most popular Topaz software and how the software can be used not only for editing but also for adding "special effects". |
| 12/16/20 | Program Night | Dorothy Ralph Essays and the Get Acquainted Project |
| 1/6/21 | Competition #4 | Judge: |
| 1/13/21 | Education Night | Up and Running with Luminar 4: Vanelli will show you how to use Luminar as a Standalone editor and a plugin for Adobe and Apple Photos. Open your photos in Luminar, develop images for proper exposure, Enhance details and structure, Bring colors to life, Edit portraits and landscapes, Use Luminar Looks to get instant results, more! |
| 1/20/21 | Program Night | Member Assignment night: Members will discuss the assigned subjects and how the image was taken and edited. |
| 2/3/21 | Competition #5 | Judge: |
| 2/10/21 | Education Night | Night Photography: Ed Bartels will explain how he does long exposure and various ways to "drag the shutter." Specifically, how keeping the shutter open exposes the photographer and viewer to a view of the world invisible to the naked eye – especially trails (from stars OR moving vehicles) and milky water. |
| 2/17/21 | Program Night | Focus on Details: Cheryl Belczak and Jeff Hayward will share information about their ideas, gear, methods and technical considerations. From natural subjects like bugs and flowers to random things around the house, it's fascinating to see the tiny details that may only be visible with the help of your camera. Potential subjects surround us wherever we are! If we can meet in person, bring your camera and tripod to try your hand with macro set-ups. Accessory flashes are useful, but not necessary. |
| 3/3/21 | Competition #6 | Judge: |
| 3/10/21 | Education Night | Applying textures to your images in Photoshop: Larry Mathewson Textures... I will show you how to use them in Adobe Photoshop CC. Methods might also work in Adobe Elements. We will be using multiple methods like Layers with blend modes, masking, and opacity. Maybe even how to create your own textures! Textures can add artistic creativity or allow a so-so image to really POP. They might even save an image destined for delete. |
| 3/12-14/21 | Can Am Photo Expo | Sheraton on the Falls, Niagara Falls Ontario, Canada |
| 3/17 /21 | Program Night | Annual E. Thomas Smith Nature Competition |
| 4/7/21 | Competition #7 | Judge: |

SMCC Photo Adventures 2020-2021

Maybe our first venture out was a "Field Trip". Overall, these outings have become Photo Adventures as we have explored different places and different techniques. During the pandemic lockdown everyone it seems took to the internet – free classes (some pure advertising and some actually educational). Personally, I took a lot of classes from Hunt's and that's where the concept of "Adventures" came from.

We are all missing the camaraderie and socialization of gathering in the Science Museum. If you remember the survey you took in 2019... Yeah, I know a real lifetime ago. Two items jump out: wanting to have "field trips" and wanting to learn / expand more. After a long conversation with Don Toothaker and Paul Nelson, they said Hunt's goal is to combine an outing with how to's. With them you get the instructors... Me not so much. Together, however, we have been coaching each other.

When capturing images via the Photo Adventure, everyone was sharing how they shoot, what they see, etc. After each Photo



Sharon Dentice

Adventure, there has been a Zoom Review of images. By the time we got to the third Photo Adventure, members were submitting more than one image and the interaction was hugely helpful. We got to go somewhere we probably would not normally go, shoot images we could not get otherwise, trying approaches to images, etc. Plus learn from each other... with no pressure, no scoring, no criticism...



Charlie Bartolotta

Just helpful suggestions. In fact, two members who went on the first Photo Adventure told me they did not share their images because they were

uncomfortable doing so. We encouraged them to submit. They did after the second Photo Adventure. Their feedback was one of tremendous thanks. That is how "safe" and helpful the Zoom Reviews have been. Plus, I think we will see some of their images in competition... something neither has done before.

And don't forget – we all have had a great time. Let me share the four Adventures along with some photos from those who came along. Mary Lou has created a video of the Lewiston Adventure and she will be doing the same for the other three – way too many wonderful images to put all in this article.

Glen Park: Naturally the first place was Glen Park. Covid restrictions were still kind of strict and we wanted to get out but also stay safe. I don't know about anyone else, but I figured out that using tripods makes it very difficult to get closer than 6 feet. My biggest issue was recognizing everyone with their masks on.



Maria Rizzo

Glen Park turned out to be a great place to start... lots of different things to shoot and we got some really different shots. Yes, lots of falls images... Each one was different reflecting each photographer's personality. We also got to view some different perspectives, like the mini falls behind the mill, a different look at the mill itself and the trees.

As each photographer talked about their image, we learned things ... how they decided to take the image as well as the post processing they did.



Mike Dziak

2020-2021 Science Museum Camera Club Schedule *continued...*

| Date | Schedule | Program Description |
|---------|------------------|---|
| 4/14/21 | Education Night | Light Painting: Scott Simmons will demonstrate how he does "Light Painting"; the art of photographing something but then adding your own light images. His photography of Light Painting goes way beyond running around in the dark with a flashlight. |
| 4/21/21 | Program Night | Marketing Tips for Your Photography Business: Patti Larson will share tips and suggestions to help you market your photography. From business cards, tag lines and branding to websites and social media. |
| 5/5/21 | Competition EOY | 3 Judges: |
| 5/12/21 | Education Night | Understanding Creativity To Improve Your Photography: Joe Edelman will present a different approach to "seeing" the photograph we want to take. He will speak to how personal perspective and attention to detail, as opposed to formal RULES, often separate the good from the great. |
| 5/19/21 | Banquet - 6:30PM | Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave, 14225 (next to Galleria Mall) |

Congratulations to Science Museum Camera Club members Michelle Turner and Tom Kredo, who were invited to participate in the Image City 2020 Christmas show starting December 1. Tom will be showing high key flowers that were grown around his home this last spring during round 1 of the pandemic. See one of Tom's images here (also seen on the cover). Visit the virtual show [here](#).

Holiday Show 2020

Also, Celebrating our 200th Exhibit!

December 1 - 23, 2020

Guest Photographers

Clyde Comstock
Don DeLong
Bruce Elling
Susan C. Larkin
Tom Kredo
JFK/AJK
Anthony Ryan
Dick Thomas
Michelle Turner

Artists-in-Residence

Jim Patton, David Perlman
Gary Thompson, Phyllis Thompson

Gallery Partners

Dick Bennett, Carl Crumley, Steve Levinson, Gil Maker
Don Menges, Luann Pero, Betsy Phillips
John Solberg, Sheridan Vincent



[Click Here](#) for a selection of Photographs to Preview the Exhibit

Should I enter my images into competition?

By Billy Callaghan

The short answer is yes, you should submit your images into the competitions. Now you are asking why I should submit my images into the competitions. Let us explore some reasons why entering competitions are good for your photography.

Critique / Feedback

By entering your images into a competition, you receive feedback on how your photography skills are doing. This feedback is instrument in providing a path for you to improve your photography. It will also show you how you are improving your skills

Self-Evaluation

During the process of submitting images into a competition, you must have a process to evaluate each image you consider for a competition. As you enter more images, you develop a better sense of self-evaluation of these images. You question why this is a good image and how the image is important.

Develop a Style

Maybe you take your camera out to "Just Take Pictures." If you work on your skills, you will find that you like certain types of photography better than others. With each type of photography, there are always individual styles that photographers develop. The more you work with a type of photography, the more your style will develop. As your style develops, the quality of the images improves.

Develop your story-telling skills

There is the old saying, a picture is worth a thousand words. Every image tells a story, even if the story is not obvious. If the image's story is strong, the judges will notice it more. For example, take an image of a bird on a stick. Sure, the image might be technically proficient but so are the others. What sets your image apart from the others?

Networking

Especially now, when we cannot meet in person, it is good to get to know your fellow photographers. They can give you inspiration and ideas. You can also ask questions of your fellow photographers.

January Assignment Challenge:

January 2021 Program

Our next challenge will be separate from the monthly competition in January.

Challenge images will be shared and discussed on **January 20** as a program. This is intended to be a growth and learning exercise and will not effect cumulative competition scores. Submitted photos must have been taken since January 1, 2020.

Projected Images

Subject: Street Photography

Technique: HDR (High Dynamic Range)

Print Image

Portraiture (color or monochrome)

Note: if we cannot meet in person by then there will not be a print challenge.

Assignments are intended to encourage you to get out and use your camera and maybe photograph in a different way.

No "resurrecting" old images!

2020-2021 Competition Updates

Competitions (like educational programs) have been planned all online this year. We will continue to reassess the possibility of meeting in person in coordination with the Museum throughout the camera club year.

Print Competitions are suspended while meetings are virtual.

For full details and the most current information including entry deadlines, rules and current standings for SMCC Competitions, please visit the competition tab of our [website](#).

(Must be logged in to view.)

What does that Judge want from me?

Has that thought ever crossed your mind? If we're honest, most of us can probably admit to some variation of that question. For me, the question was most perplexing when I first began submitting images to competition. Still the thought crosses my mind sometimes...

Hopefully you can relate and don't think I'm just a total turkey!

I bring this up because I have GOOD NEWS!

A panel of diverse NFRCC Judges (including well-respected, long-standing judges and others looking

to shake things up) have worked together to create a three part series of presentations that will detail exactly how they feel images should be evaluated. We are all invited to attend. And it's free!

The series was developed to create a common baseline for NFRCC judges. I also think it is a great opportunity for everyone to hear different perspectives and viewpoints about judging criteria and be able to ask questions. If you want to improve your photography, check out information about the NFRCC Judging Course below.

- Cheryl Belczak



NFRCC Judging Course

Online presentations are scheduled for:

Jan 9th, 2021 - 10am-12pm - What is the Job of the Judge
Jan 23rd, 2021 - 10am-12pm - Technical and Composition
Feb 6th, 2021 - 10am-12pm - Impact and Artfulness

All members of NFRCC Member Clubs are welcome to register at:
www.nfrcc.org

Saturday, January 9, 2021 10 am-12 pm

What is the Job of the Judge?

Direction based on what judges should be looking for when performing their critique.

Saturday, January 23, 2021, 10 am-12 pm

Technical and Composition

Proficiency and recognizing how it is achieved. Composition, the backbone of a successful image. A specific and compressive explanation, demonstrated by using example images. What judges should be looking for in images of all genres, as well as creative, or images with a unique flare. Look at faults and things to avoid as well as what helps a judge assess a good composition. Address the rules, but also how breaking the rules can produce a more compelling image.

Saturday, February 6, 2021, 10am-12pm

Impact and Artfulness

Define impact in photography and show how to recognize when an image possesses the ability to move viewers and get a wide range of image engagement. Moving the viewer is the final step in the success of an image. This will be demonstrated by using example images.

Free for all members of Niagara Frontier Regional Camera Club. (As a member of SMCC - you are also a member of NFRCC).

Register for this free virtual event here:

NFRCC.org



Forest Lawn: Forest Lawn was the location for Photo Adventure #2. The leaf colors had turned substantially. The later afternoon lighting helped. I was surprised at the variety of subjects ... me I went to shoot the colors (I was taking a four-week landscape class with Emily Hojnowski at the time), others saw much different images.

Kevin Flint

Of course, the statues! Those photographers talked about the challenge of shooting statues ... trying to capture not only the essence of the statue but also the character from nooks and crannies to the shininess.



Andrew Bukata

Jeff Hayward took on the challenge of shooting moving leaves (it was windy!!!). Andrew Bukata found a mini-waterfall... which almost all of us did not know is there; converting the image to black & white.



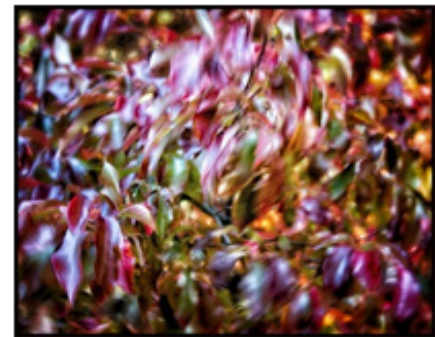
Lewiston / The Black & White Challenge: After Don Toothaker's session on black and white photography, the core group attending the first two Photo Adventure's, selected Lewiston as the destination. Again, the Zoom Review session revealed a diversity of images. [Continued on page 12](#)



Above:
Tom Kerr

Right:
Sande Barrett

Below:
Jeffrey Hayward



Left:
Mary Lou Frost

Above:
Chris Cohan

Above Right:
Michelle Turner



Tom Kerr

JUDGING: AN IMPERFECT SCIENCE

By Charles Bartolotta

Ok, I know. Judging isn't a science but, I thought that would be a good title for this article.

Let me begin by saying that I've been judging NFRCC camera club competitions for more years than I care to remember. I've also entered photographs into these same competitions, and others, for many years. (I started print competition in the Science Museum Camera Club back in the early 70's. Actually, it may even have been the late 60's.) I developed my own film. (Remember D-76?) I made my own black and white prints. (Remember Dektol?) So, I'm on both ends of the spectrum: a judge and a competitor.

Throughout these years I've heard all of the grumbling about how a particular judge evaluated a person's photograph. Heck, I've even done some of that grumbling myself. I've also heard some positive feedback about some of the judges; albeit more of the former than the latter. No one likes to receive a low score for a photograph that they've entered into competition, especially when they've put a lot of time and effort into it and are proud of what they've done. I recall that I entered prints in our club competitions for three years before I ever received a ribbon. And, of course, every print I entered prior that didn't score well enough for a ribbon was because "the judge was wrong. He didn't know what he was talking about. He couldn't see my artistic vision. Blah, blah, blah."

It took me quite a few years of competing before I finally realized that sometimes the judge actually was wrong; but mostly the judge was right. You see, judges aren't perfect. Sometimes they fail to see something in a photograph that they should have seen, and sometimes they dwell on some aspect of the photograph that we, as the maker, feel is not really that relevant. Sometimes when I've processed a photograph that I'm really excited over I'll miss something that I shouldn't have missed; like a sensor spot that I should have removed.

So, we bring judges in to give us the benefit of their expertise and provide some constructive help so that we can learn from them and improve our photography. "Yes" you say "but, what about those really low scores I got?" We all like to get 14's and 15's for our photographs, but we need to remember that scores are secondary. The judge's comments are far more important.

When I judge a competition, I generally look at

three aspects of a photograph: the composition, the technical quality of the photograph, and the impact of the photograph. In my opinion, the only one of these that is not subjective is the technical quality of the photograph, and even that has some subjective element to it.

As far as composition goes, some judges adhere to the "rule of thirds" while others want to see tight cropping of the photograph. Which is correct? It depends on the photograph. Different judges may differ on the composition of a particular photograph. So, what's the right composition for your photograph? It's what you think is best. You have to like your photograph.

In my opinion I think the technical aspects of a photograph include: the resolution (sharpness), exposure, contrast, color balance, saturation, and post-processing among others. I prefer sharpness where the photograph needs to be sharp. I'm not a big fan of selective focus but, I've seen many photographs that have used selective focus quite to the advantage of the photograph. But for every one of these "rules" there are exceptions. And, those exceptions should be used if you think they will affect the photograph in a way that pleases yourself, not the judge.

Impact is by far, the most subjective of the three. What has impact to one judge, may have no impact on another judge. I like to use the example of Niagara Falls when it comes to impact. Someone who has lived in this area for most of their life has probably seen Niagara Falls hundreds of times in all four seasons, both day and night. So, a photograph of Niagara Falls needs to be really different to have a lot of impact on him or her. But the same photograph, if judged by someone who has never seen Niagara Falls, may find it has tremendous impact. I recall judging at a club in the past when a particular photograph was projected. I looked at it for a few moments longer than I would normally, and my first comment was "I don't know what I'm looking at." I really had no idea what the subject matter was. The photograph had great use of color, was very interesting from a compositional standpoint, and I couldn't think of anything I would change in the photograph. It was a photograph I would have been proud to have called my own. So, even though I didn't know what the subject matter was, I gave the photograph a score of 15. I thought it was that good.

We gathered at the Gazebo in downtown Lewiston on a great weather Sunday afternoon. We spent time before heading out together at the gazebo talking... sharing ideas, etc. Lewiston itself had lots of people at the outside bars, the sidewalks, walking up and down the street, sitting in the parks... lively afternoon. Chris found a Singer sewing machine, taking the image through the window and Tom shared an image of parked motorcycles.

Delaware Park – Rose Garden & Hoyt Lake Area:

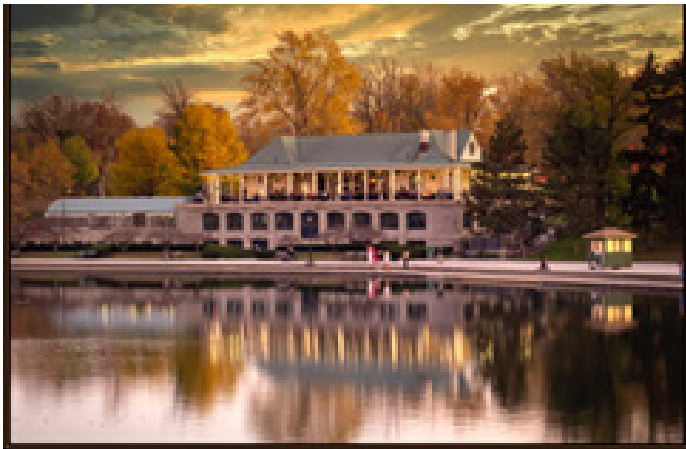
Delaware Park and Hoyt Lake area was the fourth Photo Adventure. Again, we were all amazed at the variety of images shot and approaches taken. Again, the Zoom Review session gave us all a chance to talk about our image and to learn from each other.

We went later in the day in anticipation of sunset being earlier since it was not November. The sky was spectacular.



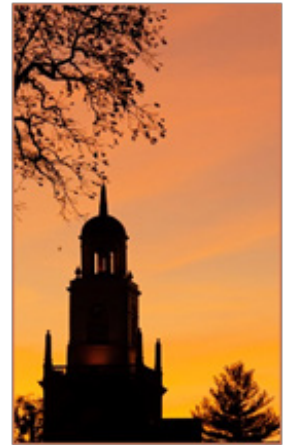
Kevin Flint

Others took to Hoyt Lake for their images. And Tom found the tunnel he was looking for.



Sharon Dentice

Going Forward: I fully intend to continue the SMCC Photo Adventures. Unfortunately, the COVID numbers are way up so we are restricted. Several members who participated in the Photo Adventures expressed a desire to do something where we are not gathering as a group. Those of you who know me understand my viewpoint which is to stay safe, wear a mask, keep distance, etc. Once you read this in the December 2020 Format, the next Photo Adventure will be over with the Zoom Review on December 3rd. This Adventure is to shoot whatever you want – around your home, around your neighborhood, etc. Right after that, the Photo Adventure is to shoot Holiday images... the lights, trees, candles, outdoor decorations, etc. Inside your place of worship decorated for the holiday. Have not picked a date for getting the images to me and then the Zoom Review. Read Sharon's weekly SMCC announcement email for those details. Following that will be cell phone shots.



Cathi Couell

Again, dates for getting images to me and the Zoom Reviews will be detailed in Sharon's weekly SMCC Announcements. Assuming COVID numbers have improved, we will return to Photo Adventures ... yes, I will even go out in the snow!!!

If you have not joined in these Photo Adventures... you should. It is really a lot of fun and you will find that it pushes you to expand and grow in your photography.



Tom Kerr

JUDGING: AN IMPERFECT SCIENCE *continued from page 11*

So, where does that leave us? I think as photographers, we should assess all the so-called rules, conventions, judge's comments, workshop learning, magazine articles, on-line learning, and any other information we can gather, and use it to our best advantage. But I think you need to keep one thing in mind: you should be photographing primarily for yourself. If you're photographing just to get a good score from a judge, you're probably not going to be happy if you don't get a good score and you're not going to be happy with your photography. And photography should be fun for you. If you're not having fun taking photographs, you need to ask yourself why you're doing it.

If you're new to photography and you want to compete, or if you think your photographs need

improvement, take advantage of the members in your club who are more experienced than you, or those whose work you admire. I don't think there is anyone in the Science Museum Camera Club or any other club who won't be more than willing to share their knowledge with you and help you improve your work. In the Science Museum Camera Club, we have a mentor program intended to help members who want to expand their photographic knowledge. Consider taking advantage of it.

And remember, it's not the score that is important; it's the critique. And if you don't agree with the judge's critique, remember, the judges are not perfect, but they try their best to do a good job.

Go out and Shoot! Compete! Have fun! And scores be damned!

FAQs with Billy Callaghan

Requesting Help with Website

Sometimes members need help with the website and how to perform functions. To receive this help, you need to contact the Website Administrator or Competition Manager. To contact me, simply send an email to billy.callaghan3@gmail.com. If you do not have my email address handy, you can submit a ticket request using the Submit a Support Request menu under Help. If you use this function, Click on Send to Website Administrators. Do not click on Send to Visual Pursuits. Sending the requests to any other email account can lead to unnecessary delays in response time, or a complete lack of response.

When are competition Images Due?

Pretty much every month, I answer the question, "when are my images due?" The images are always due at 12:00 AM the Sunday prior to the competition. We have monthly competitions every month from October until May on the first Wednesday of the month. If you need to verify competition dates, you can look at the club's calendar. On the website, go to Resources and then click on Calendar. The competition nights are in Red. The image due dates are in Orange. The Program and Education nights are in Green.

If you double-click on the competition on the calendar, it will take you to the "Submit Images to a Competition" window appears. If you are not logged in, it will take you to the login window before sending you into the Submit Images to a Competition Window.

Use of Sky and Background Replacements in Competition Images

According to the club's rules as well as the NFRCC's rules, all major components must be taken by the maker. We see several Image editing applications that include a sky replacement function. Of course, these applications include a few sky images that can be used in the function. The use of the replacement skies is not permissible. You can use the function, but you must use an image of the sky that you took. The same is true for all aspects of the image submitted into competition. The only exception to this is a texture that is not a major part of the image. If you buy a texture, you can use it as an overlay, but you cannot use it as a background. To see the competition rules, they are under Competitions -> Competition Rules and Procedures. You can select the competition type here.

You Can Still See All the Presentations!

The NFRCC Speaker Series is still open and continues until August. All programs have been recorded so if you want to register now you will be able to watch any programs you missed and catch up.

To Register: NFRCC.org/nfrcc-speaker-series

Entire series only:
\$45 CDN
NFRCC members
(*\$55 CDN for non-members*)

Individual programs are available for: \$10 CDN
(*\$12 CDN for non-members*)
All prices include HST.

See more from the Photographer/Presenters:

[Ellen Anon](#)

[Cheryl Belczak](#)

[Harold Davis](#)

[Doug Hansgate](#)

[Emily Hojnowski](#)

[Don Komarechka](#)

[Roman Kurywczak](#)

[Tim Shields](#)

Science Museum Camera Club is one of twenty-one clubs from western New York, Erie PA, and southern Ontario that make up the Niagara Frontier Regional Camera Club (NFRCC).

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Mon Sep 14 - Noah Buchanan Mirrorless vs DSLR |
|  | Sun Oct 11 - Doug Hansgate Less is More |
|  | Mon Nov 9 - Emily Hojnowski Lighting for Still Life & Macro Photography |
|  | Mon Dec 7 - Don Komarechka Down the Rabbit Hole: Otherworldly Photographic Magic You Can Discover at Home |
|  | Mon Jan 11 - Tim Shields Improve Your Photos Without Buying More Gear |
|  | Mon Feb 8 - Harold Davis Photographing Flowers for Transparency |
|  | Mon Mar 15 - TBD Data Colour Management |
|  | Mon Apr 26 - Roman Kurywczak Photographing Birds From Portraits To Flight |
|  | Mon June 14 - Cheryl Belczak Light From Darkness |
|  | Mon July 19 - Noah Buchanan Filters |
|  | Mon Aug 9 - Ellen Anon Landscape/Seascapes That Take You Away |

NFRCC Speaker Series

Online Photo Learning:

For more information and to register visit our website NFRCC.org

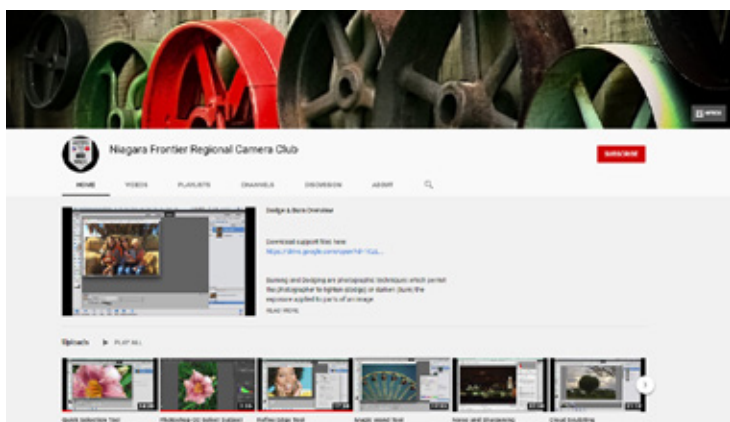
Speaker Pass
Members \$45.00
Non-members \$55.00

Single Speaker Pass
Members \$10.00
Non-members \$12.00

Hunt's



NFRCC YouTube Channel



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Check out the NFRCC YouTube channel for lots of videos from Mary Lou Frost. If you want to express gratitude, have questions or want to suggest a topic, please contact Mary Lou by email: mlfrost@verizon.net

Covid Projects:

Mary Lou has been busy making Videos of our projects. She has made videos for our "Creative Images," "Scavenger Hunt," "Buffalo Mural Project," "Dorothy Ralph Essays" and the "Get Acquainted Project."

These projects have kept us and Mary Lou busy during this time of uncertainty.

THANK YOU, Mary Lou.

Click the link in the image below to watch the mural project and see more murals on the next page.



Seeking Volunteers: Kevin Guest House

Kevin Guest House is a Healthcare Hospitality House with a mission to keep families together by providing a comfortable and supportive home away from home for patients and their families traveling for medical care.

They have asked us for help with a holiday "Front Porch Project." They are offering photos with Santa or the Buffalo for the Holidays. Because of COVID all their fund-raising activities have been canceled so this was an idea to help raise some money and give families a chance to have a family picture taken. All the pictures will be taken outside on the Front Porch of Kevin Guest House. If this is well received, they may do this again to celebrate the Easter Bunny and/or spring.

Currently we have 5 SMCC volunteers to help with the project and we could use more help.

Contact [Sharon Dentice](#) for details.

Online Critique Forum

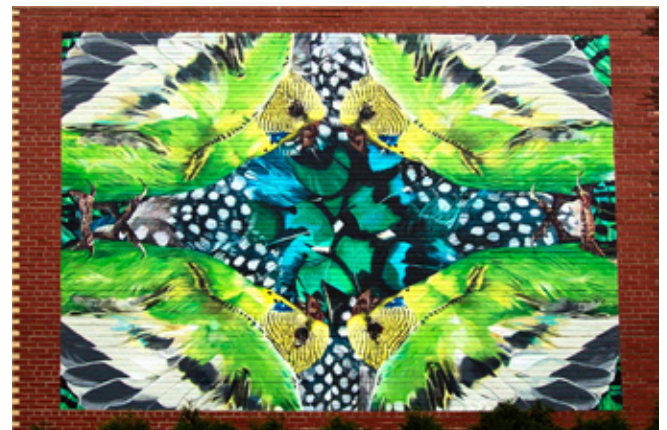
Looking for feedback before competition about your photos?

Members can submit images to and get feedback from other club members here.

To access the Critique Forum, log into the [SMCC website](#) and then find **SMCC Image Critiques under Resources**. Instructions for using the website forums can be found in the **Website Quick Tips**, again found under Resources. Tip #4.

Member News: Mark Braun

At the beginning of the club year Mary Lou had suggested documenting the wall murals around WNY for a video project she was going to assemble. Several club members made contributions to this project. I became interested in this and decided to continue with this throughout the year visiting a different area each time I went out to try and get a representation of each section of the city. There are an amazing number of murals as everyone who participated in the project can attest to. I usually go out early Sunday mornings. This seems to work best for me as traffic is light and parking is not a problem. There is less difficulty socially distancing also. The photos I've included were along Main St, Ellicott St, Perl St, Bailey Ave, Doat and Clinton Streets.



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Member News: Kevin Flint

What have I been up to? It has been a challenging year in many respects. My advisory business did not slack off as I worked with my business owner clients to figure out "Ok what do we do now?". While this is the kind of challenge which keeps me in the business, it was Exhausting!!! As most of you know, my wife had to go to Orlando on March 2nd as my daughter was sick (not COVID). Pandemic took over everything. She caught COVID from a non-mask wearing, coughing and obviously selfish person. It was not bad enough for her to seek hospitalization fortunately. Given travel restrictions, etc. she was not able to return to Buffalo until August 8th. Then we were quarantined until September 7th. Lots of people said it would be hard to be quarantined. Meantime, all I could think about was "Geez, I haven't been able to be with my wife for 6 months and now I am going to be "forced" to spend time with her – oh how bad for me (ha ha ha)".



Along the way, I did get out. Mostly with Tom and Moeen; some with Jeff. After about the third time I asked Tom how to get to where we were going, he's made it his personal mission to get me out more around Buffalo. As a result, I've been to places I've never been to before and took images I would not have had an opportunity to take left to my own devices.

One of the first places we went was Erie Basin Marina to shoot the sunset. Since starting with DSLR, I've not bracketed my shots. Tom told me about taking multiple images and merging those images together in Lightroom. Back came the bracketing and I've

been doing more of that since. Prior to this, HDR to me was the over saturation of old, rusted, banged up cars and trucks. Man was I limited in my thinking. Here is one of my first HDR images ...



I've always like shooting at night ... just never really getting around to going out around Buffalo. Tom and I went downtown. It was a great night for shooting. Later in the summer, I took a Hunt's class on filters and one on night / long exposure photography (both Emily classes). So now I am experimenting with ND filters ... Mike gave me good advice which helped me select the ND lenses I am using – Cokin Square filters.

Tom, Moeen and I shot the fly overs for the front-line hospital workers. Not really able to get good shots. The jets flyover of Millard Filmore Suburban would have been better to shoot across Maple Road than where we were. The B-52 and P-52 Flying Tiger never went any where near the Naval Yard. Experimenting I took the planes and moved them over the ships. It looked like a scene from a WWII movie.



[continued on page 18](#)

Member News: Mark Braun *continued*

More Murals...

See locations and Mark's tip on [page 16](#).



Member News: Kevin Flint *Continued*

Having learned to take parts of an image from one to another, combining shots of apes at the zoo with the night shot of Buffalo City Hall ... and we have "Buffalo's Planet Of The Apes".

With the shut downs, etc. it hasn't been possible for me to shoot performances. I decided to see if I could get myself to understand landscapes by taking Emily's four-week class on landscapes. I'm not sure I do yet... seems just being pretty is not enough. Yet I see so many of those so I have difficulty understanding. I also took a black and white class from Don Toothaker. Jeff Hayward and I took off on an afternoon of shooting. We shot the abandoned kids park on Niagara Falls Blvd, the Sunflower Farm and Daemen College library at dusk. One of the shots I converted to black and white. This is at the abandoned kids park looking back towards the tree line.



I've ventured into the world of social media. I created a Flickr page and recently a FaceBook page. It is proving to be interesting and through FaceBook I've been able to reconnect with one of the other Buffalo Music Hall of Fame photographers – he lives in Canada.

The most rewarding and interesting aspect of 2020 was to work with Sharon in developing the education sessions and programs for the club; and setting it all up to be virtual. I hope everyone finds the education sessions and programs interesting; at least one or two anyway. Please feel free to contact me especially to voice your opinion on these sessions.

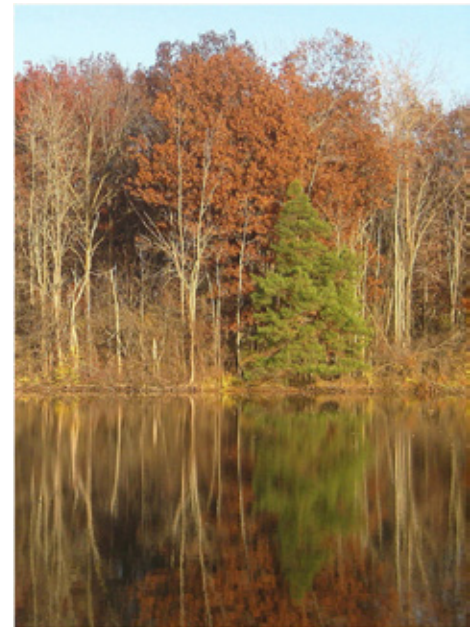
Having completed 2020, I am thinking towards the content for the 2021-2022 season. The form will depend a lot on the state of the pandemic and what the Science Museum can offer us.

Member News: Bob Kaderabeck

Other than weekly grocery shopping, daily neighborhood walks and occasional strolls in local parks, my life has been in suspended animation... all due to Covid 19.

Aside from that, my major activity has been and still is photo editing. Here is a teasel image taken at Delaware Park, three variations of a late autumn scene captured at Walton Woods and a creative mandala made from a yellow lily photoed at the Darwin Martin House.

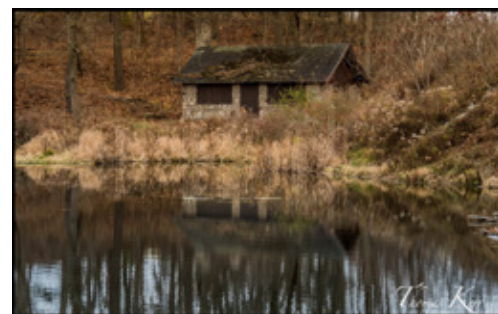
Best wishes to all for happy and safe Holidays!



Member News: Tom Kerr



September, October and November brought some personal challenges to concentrate on photography with knee and eye issues, but help is on the way. Because of that I concentrated on processing images previously ignored and a few short trips. I have been watching lots of zoom, youtube and even taking on-line classes to get better. I find Akron Falls beautiful this time of year. Here are some images.



“Jailhouse Rock”

by Ernie Yu



One of the incidental positive spins of mandatory COVID-19 in-house jail time is the inspiring chance to revive my old neglected travel photos that have been discriminated against for being plain snapshots. With limitless free time to post-process trash-bound visual memories, my creative sense fastens my eyeballs on my computer screen: saturating hues, calibrating contrast, adjusting perspectives, manipulating lines and shapes... And grinding grunge but refreshing textures on those lifeless bunch. In short, I imprint my artistic juices to new heights of wow factor, by my standard, that ends up bumping into the very conclusion, "Indeed, dead leaves can be recycled." In photo art lingo, the translation to the preceding phrase hums like this: faded photographs have magical footprints waiting to march and breathe a new lease on life.

- Ernie Yu



2020 SMCC

Dorothy Ralph Photo Essays

The Dorothy Ralph Essay Competition is an annual competition that began in 1997 and is held in honor and memory of Dorothy Ralph.

Participants choose 12-20 images and write a statement of purpose to explain the connection within their collection of images.

Dorothy was a longtime member of the Science Museum Camera Club who bequeathed a Hummel figurine of a photographer to the club. The figurine was mounted on the trophy that is awarded to the competition winner to keep for one year. All of the winners' names, and year awarded, are engraved on the trophy base. The entries this year are:

Covid Sky

by Patricia Jaramillo

When I was thinking about what to base my photo essay on this year, I kept coming back to what subject I was taking a lot of photos. It turns out the sky. One night late at work, I looked up and a whole new world opened up for me. Just with my 125x optical zoom camera, I was able to see so much like Venus, Jupiter, Mars and the Earth's Moon. Besides our sky on earth, I was able to see beyond into space. Mars this year is approximately 38.6 million miles away from earth and I could see how red it is through my camera. I hope you enjoy how diverse our sky can be which I am calling this year "Covid Sky." I have found it exhilarating, amazing, and humbling on how big our universe is and the coronavirus in the scheme of the universe will also pass into history. It will be a speck in the continuum of time and we will be ok.

Forget-Me-Not

by Cheryl Belczak

I photograph tiny forget-me-not flowers as a metaphor for memories during the progression of dementia.

Various techniques allow me to highlight different stages, details and surroundings to represent changing perceptions and fleeting access to memories. Using images that are conventionally considered flawed is intentional because the "flaws" are an important part of this message.

In these images I hope to share with you the tension between longing for the details that are lost and appreciating the treasure of what remains.

Elements of Design

by Ernie Yu

In the realm of photo arts, what are pleasing visually are the elements that create a design. Fundamental elements like colors, shapes, contrast, lines, spaces, textures, unity/harmony. All these vital ingredients are used as building blocks of my attempt to create an assortment of designs in my photo essay.

Background piano music played live by a maestro-friend.

Warplanes as Works of Art

by Jeffrey Hayward

As a photographer operating in the visual world, I find the styling of warplanes, such as the P-51 Mustang and others, to be so aesthetically pleasing as to consider them to be works of art. While notable for the historical and engineering accomplishments from which they can never be separated, these planes, with their sense of speed and imposing presence, are so striking in their appearance as to evoke strong emotional responses of awe and excitement.

Join me now as the marvel of photography allows us to take to the air along side these magnificent warbirds where we can enjoy the spectacle of their flight and the power and beauty of their presentation.

Finding Beauty in Simple Things

by Bob Kaderabeck

Purpose: To show that many common, often overlooked things, can be artistic and beautiful in their own way when keenly observed and presented.

Here are 20 very different subjects that illustrate this point.

I Will Lift Up My Eyes

by Mary Lou Frost

This year the Covid-19 limitations have caused me to miss the wide view that my eyes have been able to take with travel and photography. I need that wider view. I have searched through my image catalogs to remind me of the beauty and inspiration that lies beyond the walls of my home. I am sharing these views through my essay.