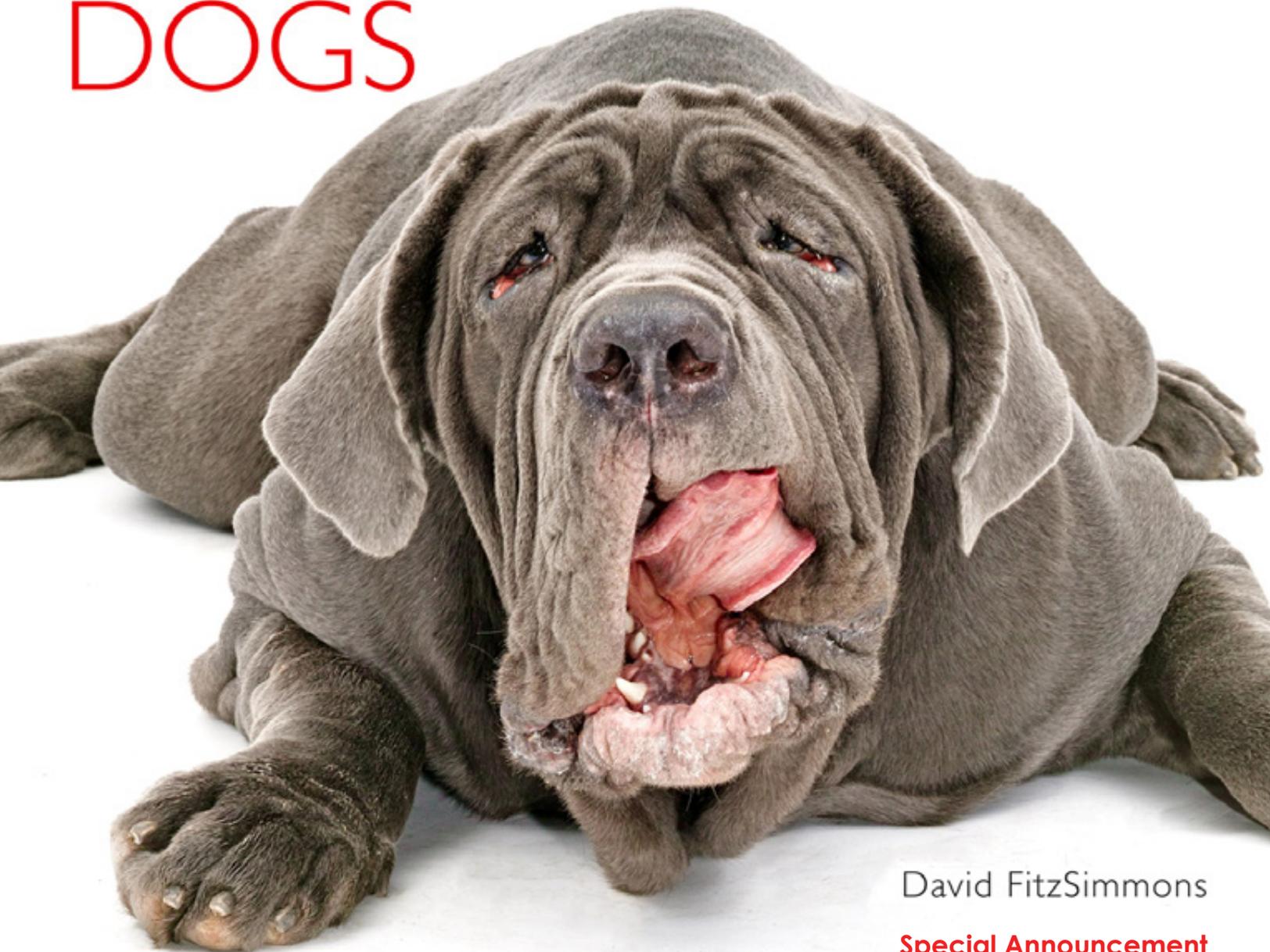




Science Museum
Camera Club

CURIOUS CRITTERS

DOGS



David FitzSimmons

Special Announcement
page 5

March 2021



FORMAT



Science Museum Camera Club

*Photography
Brings Us Together*

FORMAT

Buffalo

March 2021
Volume 50, Number 3

President's Message

Well, it's been an interesting year so far, but we have persevered. We have held competitions, programs and education nights all online using our WebEx platform.

As the year starts to wind down, we have more interesting programs & education nights planned. Spring is coming soon and we will be having more field trips and photo adventures with Kevin. We will be planning some photo projects outside over the summer months.

Last summer we had the Buffalo Mural project, there have been many more murals added so again this summer we will plan this activity. Most of us missed a lot of great murals so this summer we will have the opportunity to do it again. If you any ideas for outings let me know.

Stay tuned for more information as we move into spring – read your SMCC Email Announcements – they will contain the details.

Sharon Dentice
President, SMCC

In this issue you will also find information about:

Awards Banquet: [Page 5](#)

Exhibition opportunities: [Page 9](#)

The Holiday Card Project: [Page 9](#)

NFRCC Board Nominations: [Page 9](#)

January 2022 Photo Assignment Update: [Page 7](#)

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:

[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



Portfolio Websites and Photo Sharing Tools for Great Photographers
...all with built-in privacy settings that you control.

PSA
Photographic Society of America

FREE SUBSCRIPTION FOR PSA AND PSA CLUB MEMBERS

You are entitled to a FREE subscription if:
— You are an individual PSA member, or
— If your photo/camera club is a member of PSA

SMCC is a PSA Member!
Click here for details.

Do you know any teens who love to take pictures of wildlife and nature?

If so, please spread the exciting news that National Wildlife magazine's 50th annual photo contest—now open for entries—has a category for young nature photographers age 13 to 17, and National Wildlife Federation would love to see their work.

Contest is open until March 28.

Get full details at this [link](#).

March 10 Program

“Adding Textures in Photoshop CC”



Hello SMCC members. On March 10, 2021 I hope to introduce the SMCC membership to multiple ways of “Adding Textures in Photoshop CC”.

We will discuss:

- ... What texture blending is
- ... How it can be used
- ... Where to use a texture.

I will demonstrate multiple methods of applying textures in Photoshop CC. Attendees will be provided an online location to download all the example images along with the textures used during the session. There is also a written document to explain the steps for you to follow along to successful texture application using these images and textures.

I have prepared for all participants, a video, with voice instruction, on my Youtube channel explaining step by step application of images and textures used during this program session.

We all know that textures can be found online for free, or purchased from many web sites but you will also see that textures can be created from your own images. This can become the most exciting (and time consuming) aspect of texture application. Personal texture creations can be FUN.

Included below are 2 final images with textures added. The process used to complete these images will be shown in session. Looking forward to seeing you online.

- Larry Mathewson

2020-2021 Science Museum Camera Club Schedule

Date	Schedule	Program Description
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:
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	Award Banquet 6:30PM	This will be held virtually this year. See more information below.

**Special
Announcement**

SMCC 2020-2021 Awards Banquet:

We will not be able to have an in-person Banquet and Award dinner this year, so we have arranged a special program to help us celebrate the end of another good year.



David Fitzsimmons will present "Curious Critters: Dogs." This is a great opportunity for us to have David present for our club. He has been a speaker at past CanAm Photo Expo and the Fall Seminar. David is writing a new book on dog photography and he has agreed to share with us what he has learned about taking dog photographs while writing his book.

[See full details on page 16](#)

CANAM

PHOTO EXPO

**Get Ready for 2021
Virtual Conference
April 16, 17 & 18, 2021**

**Educational Classes
Workshops
Photo-shoots
Virtual Trade Show**

Class schedule will posted by March 7th

www.canamexpo.com

Digital Competition will be held!

Individual attendees can enter.
Interclub competitions will also be judged virtually.

\$69 US
\$99 Canadian

2020-2021 Competition Updates

Digital Competitions (like educational programs) are all online this 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.)

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.callaghan@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.

Reminder about sky and background replacements for competition images. [Page 26](#)

January Assignment Challenge:

January 2022 Program

Each year we have had a special competition in January with assigned subjects. The rule is the photograph must be taken between 1/1 – 12/31 of that calendar year. Some people like this idea and some don't. The idea behind the assigned subject is to get us out of our normal comfort zone and make us do something we are not familiar with. For 2020 we decided to change the assigned subject a little. Instead of making it a competition which does impact your final year end score. we changed it to the January program. This took the pressure off the assignments and made it more fun. After the program we asked members if they wanted us to return to the competition version or continue as a program. Overwhelmingly, everybody said they liked the program better. For the 2021-22 year the assignment will be the January program not the January competition. You will enter images into the January competition the same as every month. For the January assignment program, we will upload images to the website so they can be projected and then you, the maker can tell us about your images, ask the membership for critique or help if you want. This will be a fun program – no stress, no scores.

Projected Images

Subject: Fruits & Vegetables

Technique: Texture

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!

SMCC Photo Adventures and Challenges

As you know, every three to four weeks members either participate in an adventure or take on a photography challenge. There are about 18 members who are regulars. The real fun part are the Zoom reviews. There is not only a lot of give and take plus really good input on the images; there seems to be a lot of laughing. The last Zoom review went on for about an hour after all the images were reviewed!!! Let's take a look at the adventures and challenges since the last article.

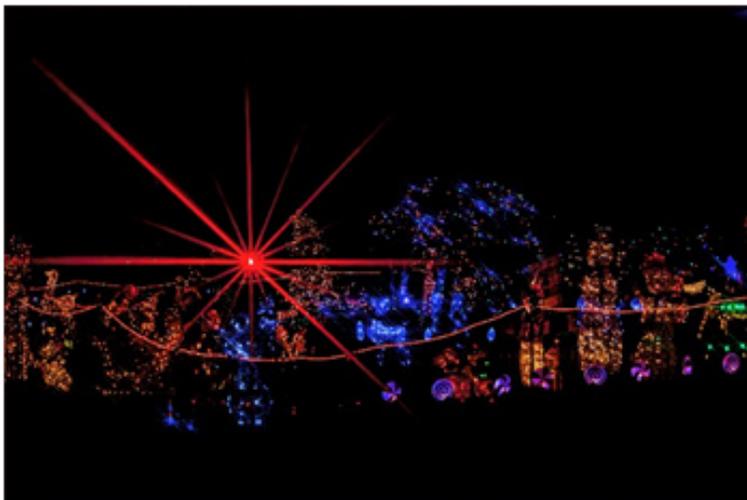
Challenge: Holiday Lights:

Of course, in December we had to do Holiday Lights. How could you not? As COVID was ramping back up and temperatures were not, we moved to adventures and challenges which you could do on your own or with a couple of others – inside or outside. The images for Holiday Lights were interesting and creative.



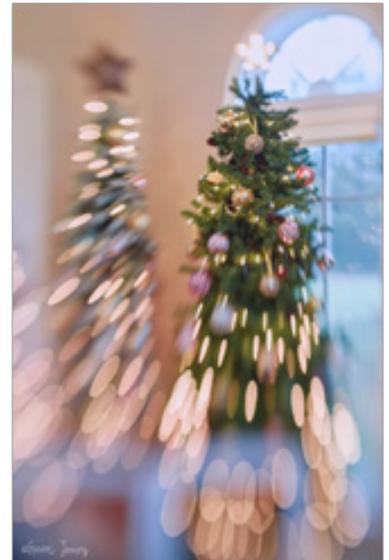
Tom Kerr took a self-portrait in a Holiday Ornament ... He ventured to the Botanical Gardens. Group liked not only the ornament but also the colors in the back ground. Notice the fine details of the ceiling and the flowers in front caught in the ball.

Every year there is a house on Troy Del Way near Maple who obviously has fun from Halloween through the December Holidays. They must spend thousands. Each year the decorations on the lawn for Halloween, Thanksgiving and then December



Holidays keep getting bigger. The neighbor's lawn is in danger of being encroached. And of course, each year I shoot all of this. This year I retrieved my Cokin filters from my film days, grabbing the star filter. This year I just wanted the lights.

Gerri Jones showed us all what can be done with the LensBaby Spark. Gerri, as you know, is a rep for LensBaby. Her images are always unique and creative. If you do not know what the Spark is, it is one of the very first LensBaby lenses. A rubber flexible / collapsible tube! A lens is inserted (50mm to fisheye). Here she focused on one tree and then let the lens "snap" creating the blurring of the lights. Sounds easy – right? Nope. Gerri has perfected it however.



Jeff Hayward took to his car, again! He found this house with lights in the windows and had to stop. The image is a great capture of this house and the lights in the windows. Jeff talked us through his post processing ... fascinating!

Photo Exhibition Opportunities

Botanical Garden Show

We have from now until October to take pictures for the show. The theme of the show will be images from our hometown. That's is not just Buffalo (city) but should be something unique to the Buffalo area. Dig through your files and see if you have anything you can use. New or old images are acceptable. If you have any images you would like to use send them to Sharon Dentice at any time. As the dates get closer, I will have more information. Reminder the Gallery takes a 40% commission.

Junior League Showhouse

The Showhouse will be at 800 Delaware Road, Knox Mansion this year. Photographers interested in showing/selling their work can contact Sande Barrett with your name, phone number and email. This is a juried show. Current details:

1. Display from August 21st to September 18th.
2. Juried display - you must be invited to show your work. Example due date: TBD
3. The split is 60/40. 60% going to the Junior League
4. You need to replace your work if sold
5. There will be a designated Art Loft where the work will be shown.

Holiday Card Project

Several members participated in creating Holiday Cards. We haven't been able to meet in person so Mary Lou thought this would be a good way to celebrate the Holidays and get to know each other in a unique way. We have decided this will be a new yearly tradition. We had a great time looking at everybody's creations and getting to know our new members.

Thanks Mary Lou for heading up this project.

You can view all the cards again when you log into: smcc.photoclubservices.com

Navigate to: "**Galleries**"

"**SMCC Program Galleries**"

Then "**2020-2021**" where you'll find:

"**2020 Holiday Party - Get Acquainted Cards**

NFRCC Board Nominations:

The NFRCC Board met on Sunday Jan 31st and the slate of officers for 2021-2022 year was announced. The slate of officers is presented to all NFRCC clubs. The board will be inducted after the CanAm in April.

The nominees are:

President:

Virginia Stranaghan

Hamilton Camera Club, CA

Vice President:

Claire Kaymon

Am Center, US

US Treasurer:

Mike Hilczmayer

TCCC, US

Canadian Treasurer:

Scott Simons

Niagara Falls Camera Club, CA

Recording Secretary:

Sharon Dentice

SMCC, US

Past President:

Joan Schumaker

Canyon Camera Club, US

If you have any questions regarding the board nominations please contact [Sharon Dentice](mailto:Sharon.Dentice@smcc.com).



What is PSA?

The Photographic Society of America (PSA), founded in 1934, is a world-wide

organization providing abundant resources for photographers, from the novice to the professional. PSA offers on-line learning, webinars, study groups, competitions, mentors and consultants. Membership is in over 80 countries, 5,000 members, 460 Camera Clubs and 12 Chapters across the United States.

There are 2 types of Memberships

- Club Membership
- Individual Membership

Club membership

SMCC has club membership, one benefit is we can compete in PSA competitions. Tom Kredo with the help of Jeff Hayward has been managing these competitions for the past 4 years. This is a lot of work gathering and submitting these images.

Individual Membership

As a member you can compete in competitions, take online classes and attend the yearly conference. Member discounts are also available. As a club many of our members have gotten HR recognition awards.

Benefits of PSA Individual Membership include:

- Access to a full range of programs and services geared toward furthering the art and science of photography. (Programs and Services linked to Member Benefits page)
- A world-class, monthly PSA Journal publication delivered in print or interactive, mobile format.
- Members' Only discounts on photography-related products, excursions and services.
- Customized photography education, mentoring and critiquing services to enhance photographic skill and artistry.
- A worldwide community where like-minded individuals can share and encourage photographic growth and creativity.

Digital membership is \$45 per year, that means you get a PDF version of the monthly Journal sent to you via email.

Full adult membership with a printed journal received in the US mail is \$65 per year. This Journal has many articles on photography.

One of our members: Cherie St Pierre has been printed in the Journal and one of her Images was on the cover.

Find out more about membership and join at this [link](#).

- Sharon Dentice

SMCC PSA Club Competitions: Round 1

Images can be viewed at:

psa-photo.org

Nature Division

Club Standings: Group B – 26 Clubs

(moved up one division this year)

Place	Club Name	Location	Totals
1st	Wangi Workers Camera Club	Australia	75
2nd	Science Museum	New York	72
3rd	South Shore Camera Club	Massachusetts	72

HR and Awards (156 Images Per Round)

Round	Photographer	Title	Award Type
1	Jeffrey Hayward	Orb Weaver Lateral Aspect	Honorable Mention (top 20%)
1	Ester Kowal-Bukata	Fish Stealer Bear Got Caught	Honorable Mention (top 20%)



Current Standings

Continued from previous page.

Projected Image Division (PID) Club Standings Group C – 23 Clubs

Place	Club Name	Location	Totals
1st	Lehigh Valley Photography Club	Pennsylvania	75
2nd tie	Science Museum	New York	72
2nd tie	Assabet Valley Camera Club	Massachusetts	72
2nd tie	Grand Rapids Camera Club	Michigan	72

HR and Awards (138 Images Per Round)

Round	Photographer	Title	Award Type
1	Willis Schwartz	Northern Parula Warbler	Honorable Mention (top 20%)
1	Jeffrey Hayward	Orb Weaver in the Ultra Violet	Honorable Mention (top 20%)
1	Charles Bartolotta	Big Daddy	Award (top 10%) Eligible for End of Year Best of Competition

Photojournalism Division Club Standings Group B – 12 Clubs

Place	Club Name	Location	Totals
1st	Australian Horizon Club	Australia	63
2nd	Hoylake Photographic Society	England	61
3rd	Wangi Workers Camera Club	Australia	61
4th	Science Museum	New York	59

HR and Awards (156 Images Per Round)

Round	Photographer	Title	Award Type
1	Mike Dziak	Heads Up	Award (top 10%) Eligible for End of Year Best of Competition
1	Ernesto Yu	Raining Again	Honorable Mention (top 20%)

Travel and Creative Standings on [Page 23](#)

More SMCC Photo Adventures *continued from page 8*

Andrew Bukata showed us a glimmer into his creativity with this image of a bus going down Main Street. Look closely. Andrew was inside another building with lots of glass across the street from a Kaleida Health facility. The long exposure let him capture a city bus as it was slowing for the light but still moving enough to just be barely seen and be transparent. As he explained the image and his post processing, we were all captivated!!



Sharon Cramer took this one of a Wizard in East Aurora. The texture of the tree is a great offset and background for the molded wizard. Still not sure what it is made of. This shows what you can find while out and about; and you have your camera with you. Her postprocessing concentrated on separating the wizard from the bark so it stood out.



Tom Kerr and Moeen Abu Sita took a drive to Knox Farms. Moeen captured this image of the barn, fences and horses. Sharp image. Moeen explained his capture process and post processing. Together the processes produced an image which showed the peacefulness of the place.



Challenge: Shoot Anything:

This Challenge took a lot of imagination. Everyone chose their own subject. It was interesting to see what everyone came up with.



Just a little info on Sharon Dentice: She's secretly a car person. She's kept this model car for years and decided to see what she could capture. A wonderful "still life" I guess you'd call it. Then she got crazy!! Creatively she highlighted the car with this background. How she did this amazed us all as she explained her post processing steps.



[continued on page 14](#)

SMCC Member Features:

Most travelers tour Southern France's famous towns of Avignon, Arles, Aix-en-Provence and Marseilles, internationally known for contributing some of the world's greatest artists. There are also hidden gems for photographers to explore: the wildlife of the Camargue, the fields of lavender and sunflowers throughout Provence, and the quaint villages: Aigues-Mortes, Lacoste, Roussillon, Gordes, Saignon, and Moustiers-Saints-Marie along the way.

The first important goal is to find a knowledgeable photography leader who is booking for the desired season when flowers are in bloom; typically, this is in late June. My leader was Wolfgang Kachler who also hired a local agency to help guide us. Booking can be two to three years in advance.

The Camargue is France's "Wild West," Western Europe's largest river delta of 900 square kilometers. The landscape consists of red salt lagoons full of reedy marshes and rice paddies, herds of indigenous wild white Camargue horses, and farms where Europe's only cowboys, the "Gardiens" raise black bulls for the bullrings of Languedoc and Spain.

Our first stop was the Parc Ornithologique de Pont de Gau, founded in 1949 by Andre Lamauroux. His son, Rene, enlarged the area and planted thousands of trees and shrubs, creating a

new function: the protection and discovery of nature in the Camargue. Now it is a safe refuge for Greater Flamingoes, Grey Herons, European White Storks, and Snowy Egrets. We arrived before sunrise, so the tripod and a 400mm lens were essential.

For the next few days we photographed the wild white horses at various times during the day and at different venues. These horses are trained by private landowners. The government has laws in which the owners cannot change any part of the environment. The foals are born with black coats which change to brown, and finally to white. At sunrise we headed for the beach to shoot a single stallion dashing in and around the sea and surf, as well as on top of the sand dunes, providing dramatic action and foggy mood shots.

Next we photographed many horses and bulls running through the marsh and heading straight toward our cameras. We shot several drives with the horses running across our field of view, offering second chances to obtain our best shots. This took a bit of preparation for the photographers practicing walking through the marshes wearing waders for the first time. Before the trip our leader emailed us requesting our shoe size so he could rent the waders. It alleviated the fear of purchasing and packing them in our luggage. I also purchased insurance for my



By Cherie St. Pierre, Ph.D.

DIVISION NEWS, ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an item of national or international interest concerning a PSA activity that you wish to appear in the news, please email a brief article to the appropriate News Editor. General News/Calendar of Events items can be emailed to the Journal Editor at nlb@psa-photo.org.

Abbreviations used in these columns (no periods after letters):
 CC = Camera Club
 PA = Photographic Association
 PS = Photo Society
 PC = Photo Club
 PG = Photo Guild
 PGr = Photo Group
 (All others spelled out)

Information about divisions can be found on the PSA Website www.psa-photo.org

Photo Travel (PTD)

Lynn Tracy Monticchio, Host/PSA, EPSA, Editor, LTM@psa-photo.org

InterClub Competition

Round 1 finished with Delaware PS in the lead in Class A. Inland closely by Saguenay CC and St. Louis CC. The top scoring images were *Autumn over Esplanade* by Terri Nana of Delaware PS and *Reaching for the Sky Mountains* by Dick Roman of St. Louis CC. Shirley Bormann, APSA, EPSA, was the coordinator for the host club, Grand Photos, and the judges were Stan Bormann, EPSA, MPSA, Judy Heiderman and Sheldon Weckler, QPSA.

In Class B there was a tie for the lead between Australia's Bitumant 166 PC and Saudi Arabia's New View PC, with Lehigh Valley CC coming in third. The top scoring image was *Desert Flowers* by Jama Aljafari of New View PC. Diana Magor, APSA, MPSA was the coordinator for the host club, Hoylake PS, and the judges were Lynn Roscoe, Noel George and Sue Freeman.

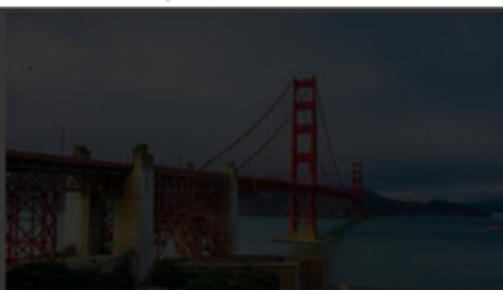
The second round of entries, six images per club, are due on February 15. For questions, contact the division LC director Susie Marathe, GMPSA.



Class A—Autumn over Esplanade © Terri Nana



Class B—Pilot des Arts Himmelfahrt © David Braitsch



Class B—Golden Gate © William Peake

Thanks to Tom Kredo who shared these PSA features from SMCC members.

The excerpt (above) is from a feature article "The Secrets of Southern France" written by Cherie St. Pierre.

See the full article in the January 2021 PSA Journal.

David Braitsch's photo was featured in the February 2021 PSA Journal (left).

Challenge: Shoot with your cell phone:

Following the December presentation on cell phone photography, the group wanted to try their hand at capturing images with their cell phones.



Wow!! There were surprises in the images submitted for the Zoom review. The most heard comment was, "you could do that with your cell phone?"

Charlie Bartolatta captured a couple of great images of a church he and Claudia found driving around Rochester. Great texture ... and yes, a cell phone image.

Nora and Larry Mathewson have been regaling us all of their drives around Canada. One drive they found this interesting looking woods. Larry walked into the woods and took this image looking towards the sky. He did some very interesting post processing. Well, Nora not to be outdone, took one of the woods.



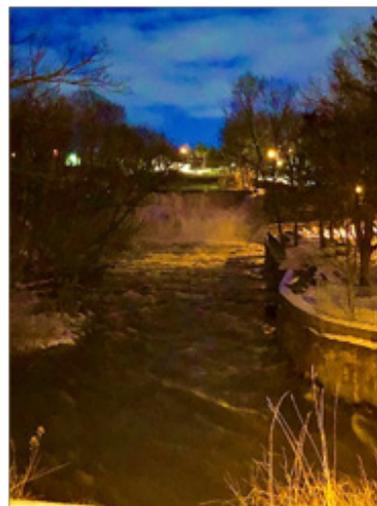
Look closely as she captured Larry taking his shot. Both Larry and Nora used post processing techniques to highlight the trees and show the winter scene.



Maria Rizzo captured this winter scene with her cell phone, not far from her house. She explained she was fascinated by how the scene spoke to being cold but open.



Bob Kaderabeck ventured out while it was snowing pretty heavily ... Brave Bob! But what an image of the snow coming down without losing detail of the background fence and house.



Night images were particularly surprising in terms of what a cell phone could capture. In the late blue hour, I went to Main Street in Williamsville and Glenn Falls. This image is of Glenn Falls with very little in cell phone post processing.

To say the least we were all astounded by the images captured with cell phone. Andrew made the comment that knowing this now will probably make his street photography a little easier. Not having to set up with his tripod and camera or just his camera also will make him less conspicuous on the street so he's hoping for a lot more candids.

Challenge: The Color Orange:

Our last challenge was to photograph the color orange. There was an extremely important caveat: Do not take a picture of an orange, orange peel, etc. Initially I got a lot of teasing pushback. However, once things got going, those taking up the challenge ended up saying they had fun. A couple said they were surprised by how many items they found in their home that were colored orange. The results were again astounding.



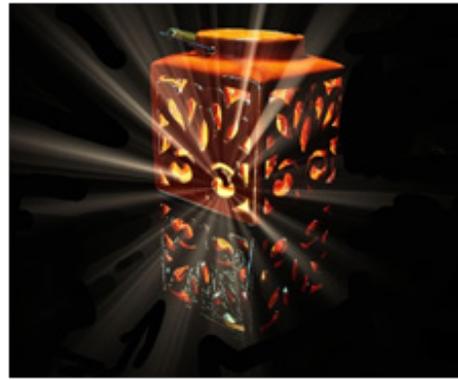
Jeff Hayward took 42 shots of these gummies. He combined the shots via photo stacking since each image had a different part of the image in focus. Lucky for all of us, he explained how he does that. Jeff our King of Macro!!



Moeen Abu Sita took this amazing but simple image of an orange snow shovel in snow. He captured the detail in the shovel as well as the subtle waves of snow. The question is did he

shoot this before or after doing the driveway?

Sharon Dentice, on the other hand, took to bottling orange flowers. The blue of the jar stands out against the subtle mult-orange colored back ground.



Nora Mathewson captured this wonderful orange "lantern" light. Surrounded by black, the lantern really stands out. The star burst finishes the image with finesse.

Bob Kaderabeck was having breakfast contemplating what something orange he could shoot. While contemplating, he set his glass of orange juice on the kitchen table. Whala! Of course he could not leave it alone. Taking it into Topaz, Bob turned a simple glass of orange juice into a creative image of orange juice in a glass on a kitchen table.



Current Challenge: Snow and Ice:

Now that we've entered the waining winter time, of course the challenge is snow and ice. This is one challenge you can do from your front or back door. Personally, I can't wait to see what everyone comes up with.

Moving on Forward:

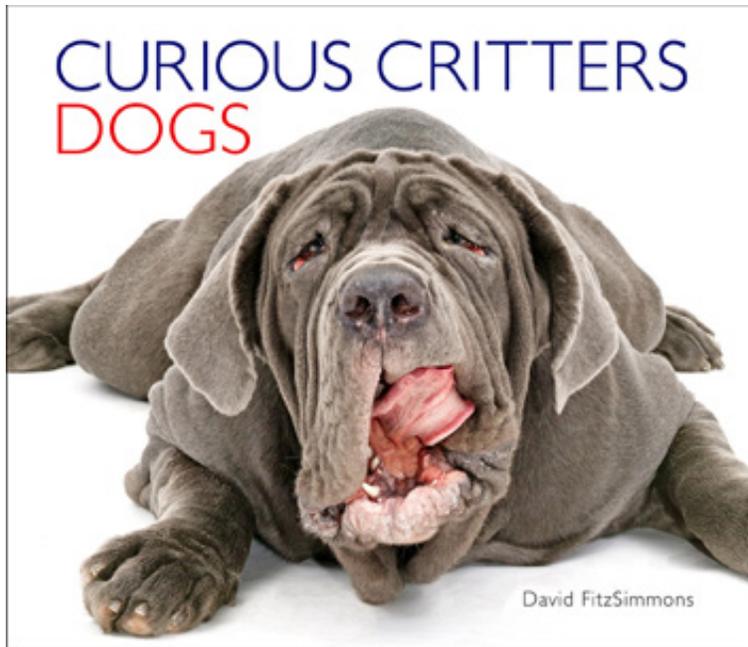
As we enter Spring and through the Summer, I will not only continue the challenges but also when weather permits, we'll be going on some Photo Adventures. I've compiled a list of places we can go without spending a lot of time driving. So keep reading the emails. Hopefully the virus will continue to lessen and we all get vaccinated. So join us if you have not yet ... you are missing out on a lot of learning, a lot of comfortable reviews of your images and a lot of laughs.

-Kevin Flint

SMCC 2020-2021

Virtual Awards Banquet Presentation

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 | 6:30 PM



David FitzSimmons

“Curious Critters:Dogs”

Join David FitzSimmons for a fun-filled presentation of beautiful and bizarre Curious Critters. After a short background on David's mesmerizing animal portraiture series—which has resulted in 20+ children's picture books—the photographer, author, and naturalist will talk about his work on “Curious Critters New York” and then focus on his current project, “Curious Critters Dogs.” David will talk about the techniques, challenges, and purposes for photographing creatures against white backgrounds. Along the way, hear stories of critter antics and enjoy behind-the-scenes looks at book production.



David FitzSimmons, an award-winning free-lancer, photographs and writes for various magazines, including Outdoor Photographer, Popular Photography, Professional

Photographer, and Shutterbug. David's 100+ calendar credits include numerous titles by BrownTrout, Barnes & Noble, and TF Publishing. David's publications include Curious Critters, Curious Critter Volume Two, Curious Critters Marine, as well as more than a dozen Curious Critters state-specific board books. His other books include Salamander Dance, Animals of Ohio's Ponds and Vernal Pools, and Wakem the Rooster: Up All Night. David's books have won 14 national book awards and sold over 200,000 copies.

David presents seminars and workshops to a wide variety of audiences, from public school, college, and university classes to photography groups, civic organizations, and nature groups. His works have been exhibited at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, the National Center for Nature Photography, The Palm Beach Photographic Centre, and the Telluride Photo Festival.

Before becoming a freelance photographer and author, David taught for over twenty years—first high school English and then as a university professor, having taught at Cornell, Ohio State, and Ashland Universities. He holds a Ph.D. in English from Ohio State University, with a specialty in narrative theory—investigating the components of storytelling—something that influences his photography and writing. David visits schools across North America sharing his Children & Nature message and promoting verbal and visual literacy.

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: <i>Otherworldly Photographic Magic You Can Discover at Home</i>
	Mon Jan 11 - Tim Shields Improve Your Photos <i>Without Buying More Gear</i>
	Mon Feb 8 - Harold Davis Photographing Flowers <i>for Transparency</i>
	Mon Mar 15 - TBD Data Colour Management
	Mon Apr 26 - Roman Kurywczak Photographing Birds <i>From Portraits To Flight</i>
	Mon June 14 - Cheryl Belczak Light From Darkness
	Mon July 19 - Noah Buchanan Filters
	Mon Aug 9 - Ellen Anon Landscape/Seascapes <i>That Take You Away</i>

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



Member News: Charles Bartolotta

Judging The Clacton Camera Club (Uk) Creative Competition

By Charles Bartolotta

Last December, Billy Callaghan, our Webmaster and IT expert, was contacted by the Clacton Camera Club, located in Clacton-on-the Sea in England. They asked him if he could suggest someone from the US who might be willing to judge their Creative category competition on January 22nd. Billy asked me if I would be interested in the task and I agreed to do it.

Prior to the actual competition, I did a bit or "Googling" and I learned that Clacton-on-the Sea is a resort town in the Tendring district of the UK with a population of about 57,000 people. I also looked at the Clacton Camera Club website which contains some of their member's galleries of photographs. In looking at their photographs I found that they photograph many of the same things that we do: nature, wildlife, macro, still life, portraits, etc., and they do it all very well.

A few days before the actual competition, Mr. Michael Read sent me the 65 images that were to be judged. I was informed that the images were not required to have numerical scores (although their images are scored from 2-to-10 during their regular competition), but only to identify which images I felt were worthy of receiving either a commendation, or a high commendation. Then I was to pick a first, second, and third place from them. I was allowed to pick as many commendations as I felt were merited.

On the night of the competition (due to the 5-hour time difference their 7:00 pm meeting was our 2:00 pm time), I had the opportunity to talk with many of their members over the live Zoom meeting. They all seemed to be quite friendly and eager to hear the opinions of a judge from the US.

The major difference that I noted in their creative renditions of their photographs is that they tend not to apply heavily manipulated software changes to their images. The majority of their images were created by subtle manipulations and/or the addition of a texture over the image. There were some very creative composites including some very impressive monochrome conversions. Virtually all of the images began as very good photographs even before the creative techniques were applied. It was difficult to choose from so many fine images.

Out of the 65 images, I chose 30 images for commendations and high commendations, and of those 30 I picked the first, second, and third place awards. As is usually the case with judging the Creative categories, it was difficult judging for all the same reasons that it is difficult judging Creative in the NFRCC clubs. Fortunately, having received the images before the night of the competition, I was able to annotate my critiques beforehand and then expand on them during the live Zoom meeting.

I am glad that I had this opportunity to engage with fellow photographers from the UK and get an understanding of how they see photography and to have the opportunity to see their photographs.

A day after the competition I received an email from Ms. Wendy Gill of the Clacton Camera Club expressing their thanks and appreciation for my comments and asking that I stay in touch so that I might participate in one of their upcoming programs. I recommend that if anyone else should have an opportunity such as I had that they take advantage of it because it really was quite rewarding.

Member News: Gerri Jones

I will be one of the speakers at the **Out of Chicago Live Conference** on April 9 - 11. It is a three day event with about 50 Presenters/Speakers. There are Presentations, Challenges and Group Discussion Sessions for photographers, which will all be recorded for reference. In particular, I will be presenting on Still Life Using Natural Light Indoors.

I will also be doing a Photo Challenge with instruction on how I do refracted wine glasses with reflections. The Photo Challenges include instruction with participants, then they are challenged to create their own images and given feedback/discussion at a later date for review.

For full details: www.outofchicago.com



OUT OF CHICAGO
LIVE! 2021
APRIL 9-11

"Absolutely amazing! This conference was so engaging and completely inspiring."

- 2020 LIVE! Attendee



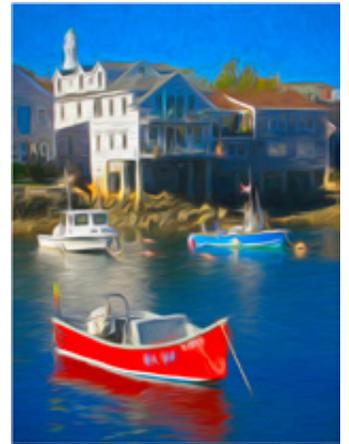
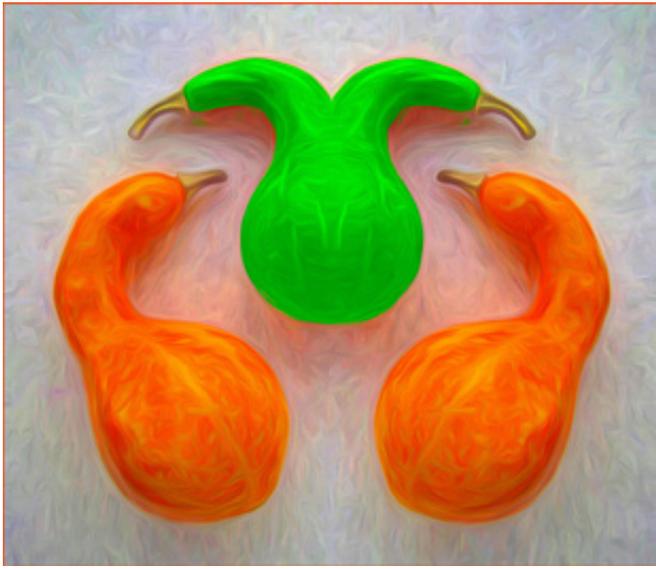
Member News: Bob Kaderabeck

Not much has changed in my activities since the December Newsletter. Covid 19 still is keeping me mostly in the house. The good news is that Beth and I got our first Moderna vaccine shot on Jan 27 and by the time this is published we will have received our booster dose on Feb 24. Hopefully this will lay the groundwork to see all camera clubbers in person again in Sept.

Meanwhile, the extra time at home has given me more opportunity to edit images. Although I enjoy photographing all subjects, one of my favorite categories is creative. Having recently acquired Topaz Studio 2, I've been trying several of their "Add a Look" filters. They have many variations, but I found about 6 or 7 that give me the effects I like. I'm still experimenting with which ones work best, at least in my view, with different subjects.

Here are a few images I put together that I found quite interesting. Hopefully you will too.

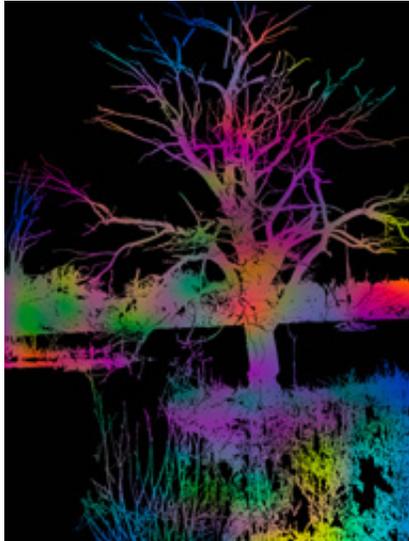
- Bob



Member News: Tom Kerr



Sunday 2/14. Club members Kevin Flint, Moeen Abu-Sitta and me headed to Niagara Falls - Prospect Point and Goat Island for a chilly outing. Kevin's first visit there but we will get him back in warmer weather.





The Back Yard Shut In

by Charles Vallone

Hope everyone is surviving this COVID lock down. We don't go too many places nor see any friends. I know it is getting old for all of us. We did strike it lucky and were able to get our first and second shots of the Pfizer Vaccine through the CVS Store in Blasdell, one of only 2 in NY State up until just recently. The other CVS store was on Long Island and featured on an edition of the NBC evening news. The software interface for making an appointment was well thought out and executed, and likewise kudos to the store personnel. Nothing like the miserable failure of the state operated appointment systems. We were able to alert some at risk friends and they were successful in obtaining appointments and getting the shots. So what of photography thru this all.... Not much other than out the back door. We have several bird feeders and they feed the little birds, the deer, and the hawks. The hawks of course consider the bird feeder as meat market supplying a plethora choice of live bird species.

Sometimes we have foxes and I have seen one take down a squirrel in a mad dash. So much so the fox had to rest for some time once he had caught and disabled his prey. The other day about a week ago, we witnessed a hawk gather a squirrel. He or she spent a lot of time holding the squirrel down on the ground and sinking claws into the squirrel...full wing spread on the ground. So much so, that my wife thought the hawk was injured at the back of our lot. It was snowing. Every once in awhile you could see the squirrel's tail flip up into sight. I Grabbed my camera with 300mm zoom (never enough reach) and opened the back door. Waited..and waited. Snapped some uninteresting static frames. Eventually the hawk tried to take off. Like an airplane that looks like it won't be able to get airborne. That large wingspan struggling..... He had the squirrel's head by one claw. The squirrel looked like the tail on a kite. What a headache of a day for the squirrel. It looked like the hawk wasn't going to gain enough altitude to get through the trees. What he did was to make a left banking turn, losing altitude, barely clearing the ground, and then dropping down into to the path of Gott Creek that runs at the end of our property line. Maybe the creek path was a calculation on his or her part that; if dropped the squirrel, would land in the creek and would not be able to scamper away.

Other back yard visitors... the herd

So Spring can't be too far off...COVID has got to subside that we can once again get together in person and enjoy one another's company. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Chuck

One more visitor on the next page.

Member News: Charles Vallone *Continued from page 22*

Another Backyard Hangout Visitor

This blue heron looked like an under nourished stick on the far side of the creek. He decided to fly off once he sensed the back door open. Then try to track his ascent and flight path! Good luck... We need a new type of zoom lens... A Snap Zoom would offer simultaneous wide view for tracking and a zoomed in view for image capture. All these fancy tracking algorithms of today's cameras don't do it for you when this guy climbs into the sky, turning and flying through the trees.



PSA Standings Continued from Page 11



Travel Division Club Standings Group B – 27 Clubs

Place	Club Name	Location	Totals
1st	Belmont 16s Photography Club	Australia	61
2nd	New View Photography Club	Saudi Arabia	61
3rd	Lehigh Valley Photography Club	Pennsylvania	61
16th	Science Museum	New York	59

HR and Awards (162 Images Per Round)

Round	Photographer	Title	Award Type
1	David Braitsch	Palais des Arts Hemispheric	Award (top 10%) Eligible for End of Year Best of Competition

Creative Division Club Standings Group B – 14 Clubs

Place	Club Name	Location	Totals
1st	Australian Horizon Photographic Club	Australia	72
2nd	IFSAK	Turkey	68
3rd	Ivanhoe Photographic Society	Australia	67
6th	Science Museum	New York	55

HR and Awards (84 Images Per Round)

Round	Photographer	Title	Award Type
1	David Braitsch	Palais des Arts Hemispheric	Award (top 10%) Eligible for End of Year Best of Competition

“The World In My Room” by Ernie Yu



Last year's four seasons were a study on restricted migration and a chapter on home sweet home. The heightened anxiety of Covid-19 morbidity and mortality had us all trapped in our homes and had us refrained from interstate travel. Gone were the days of living in the fast lanes. Every dream drifted in turtle-paced, a cycle of repetitive routines, predictably boring, pounded by a score of undisputed CDC mandates...almost mirrors a diluted version of Nightmare On Elm Street.

So far this New Year, the light at the end of the tunnel is a bit rosy. However, a new round of issues evolves: frustrating struggle to be in line for Covid vaccine, adapting to the suffocating mists from rebreathing through double face masks, and joining in the intense debate among exploding bellies whether to subscribe in Nutrisystem or GoLo.

At any rate, by lubricating my anatomical locomotive to spin just around the house perimeters, I have limitless lazy hours to invest on the dizzying assortments of photo post-processing softwares in the market. Both Skylum and Topaz were dishing out juicy free trials and enticing specials to recycle my faded photographs, resuscitate the discolored charm of the passing moments in time, revive the wonder in wonderful, and refresh the rainbow in rain. In brief, it flashed into my no holds barred fantasy-manufacturing world an opportunity to unearth the potential eye-popping mysteries in unedited bundle of memories. Consequently, I was sucked in to its dazzling temptations and stretched the elastic limits of my plastic card. Nonetheless, the resultant dents on my wallet was worth every amazement and magic that refined my creative workflow.

Attached are some visual byproducts of such gratifying retouching and refreshing artistic maneuvers. Be caution, the adjectives employed in the preceding sentence are wholly transcribed from the dictates of my heart. As such, you be the silent judge.





NIAGARA FRONTIER REGIONAL CAMERA CLUB

AM-CENTER CAMERA CLUB, AMHERST, NY
 CAMERA ROCHESTER, ROCHESTER, NY
 CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CC_(C4), JAMESTOWN, NY
 FINGER LAKES PHOTOGRAPHY GUILD, BLOOMFIELD, NY
 GRIMSBY PHOTO GROUP, GRIMSBY, ON
 HALDIMAND PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB, CALEDONIA, ON
 NIAGARA FALLS CAMERA CLUB, NIAGARA FALLS, ON
 SCIENCE MUSEUM CAMERA CLUB, BUFFALO, NY
 SOUTHTOWNS CAMERA CLUB, HAMBURG, NY
 TWIN CITIES CAMERA CLUB, TONAWANDA, NY
 WELLAND CAMERA CLUB, WELLAND, ON

BATAVIA PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB, BATAVIA, NY
 CANYON CAMERA CLUB, PERRY, NY
 ERIE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB, ERIE, NY
 GENESSEE VALLEY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, GENESEO, NY
 HAMILTON CAMERA CLUB, HAMILTON, ON
 LATOW PHOTOGRAPHERS GUILD, BURLINGTON, ON
 PORT COLBORNE CAMERA CLUB, PORT COLBORNE, ON
 ST. CATHARINES PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB, ST. CATHARINES, ON
 TRILLIUM PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB, BURLINGTON, ON
 TWIN TIER CAMERA CLUB, OLEAN, NY

McKellar #3 – January 2021

Judging Club: Victoria Camera Club Victoria, BC
Judging Team: Rick Shapka, Leah Gray, Steve Smith

HONOR AWARD RIBBONS:

Top 25% of the 78 photographs submitted.
 This is equivalent to score of 22 and higher.

Club	Photographer	Image Name	Returned Score
SM	Kredo, Tom	Familiar Dream	24 HA
SM	Jones, Gerri	Spring Still Life	24 HA
SM	Hayward, Jeffrey	F16 Thunderbird	22 HA
SM	Schwartz, Willis	Breakfast Flounder	20
SM	Fenclau, Gerry	fall falls	20
SM	Turner, Michelle	Ellis Island Abandoned Hospitals	20

Club	OCT	NOV	JAN	SUBTOTAL	FEB	TOTAL
SM	166	128	130	424		
ST	163	127	124	414		
NF	156	133	119	408		
TC	149	130	125	404		
SC	145	135	123	403		
HA	146	117	134	397		
WE	136	134	125	395		
TT	141	120	118	379		
ER	123	124	127	374		
CA	126	121	116	363		
FL	126	100	119	345		
GV	117	115	107	339		
BA	118	108	111	337		
CR*	126	115	*			

* Stopped participation

January Judge Profiles on the next page.

McKellar #3 January 2021

Judging Team Profiles

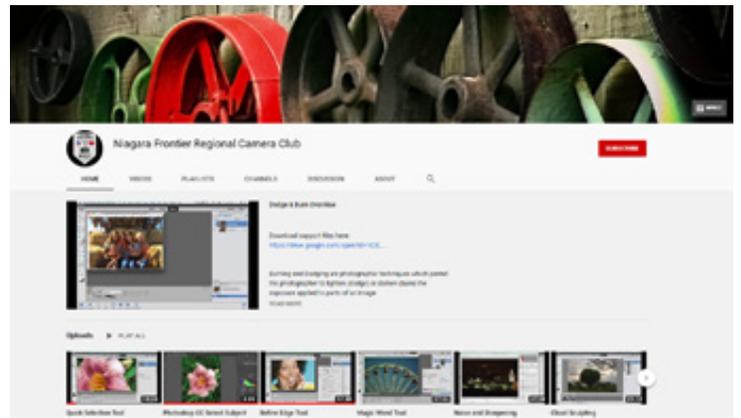
Members of Victoria Camera Club, Victoria, BC

Rick Shapka, FCAPA has been a CAPA certified judge since 2011, who is active as a judge both in BC and Canadian camera clubs. He has a photography diploma from Focal Point (Vancouver) and art history diploma from UBC. He has taken a number of master photographer workshops in Canada and the USA. Rick is a member of the Victoria Camera Club external competition committee. Rick is a photographer who travels to photograph places, events, people and animals. In addition, he has a keen interest in creating abstract images both in, and out of the camera. Some of his images can be seen at rickshapka.smugmug.com

Leah Gray, FCAPA is the Chair of the Victoria Camera Club External Comps Committee, past webmaster of VCC and CAPA. She has accumulated over 500 acceptances in International Exhibitions including 15 gold medals and 3 Best in Show awards. Her image "Siblings" was judged "Best in Show" in the PSA Nature division over all 2018 gold-medal winning Nature and Wildlife images world-wide. Interests range from Wildlife and Landscape photography to Sports, Travel and Creative images. Leah is a CAPA trained judge. Images can be seen at spirithills.ca

Steve Smith is a trained CAPA judge. Steve Smith is a past vice president of the Victoria Camera Club. He has previously volunteered as the Field trips co-ordinator, Presenters Night co-ordinator and Lighting SIG co-ordinator. He is currently on his third year with the External Competitions Committee. Beginning as a novice he worked his way up to the advanced category with the VCC. His interests include Nature, Wildlife, Landscape and Travel photography. Competing in Canadian and International competitions he has won a collection of gold, silver and bronze medals plus accompanying ribbons. Steve is a biologist with a PhD in Forest Ecology and is a retired Professional Forester. His images can be seen on Flickr. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/treehunter>

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

Competition Reminder

continued from page 7

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.