

inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

May 2024



INSIDE:
Coming Up
Personal Projects
Martha's Vineyard
Field Trips
Competition 5B
NYMACC Field Trip



Annual Meeting

MY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO ATTENDED OUR ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING ON APRIL 26 and helped celebrate the accomplishments of your fellow photographers during the awards ceremony for the 2022-2023 competition season. In addition to the competition winners, two special awards were also given out. The Tony Gezirjian "Distinction in Open Mind" award went to Dennis Thornton and the Harry Hoffman "Most Improved Photographer" award went to Jackie Ross. Congratulations to everyone!

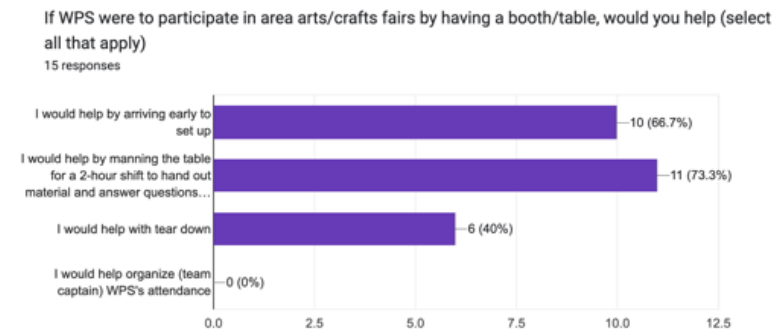
Plaques and certificates were distributed at the Eclectic Quartet's recent reception and arrangements will be made for those unable to pick up their awards then.

Linda Austrian, who joined the board last year, has decided to step down from the board. We thank her for her service. The rest of the board ran unopposed and were declared elected by acclamation. We are looking for a ninth member so if you are interested in helping us direct the operation and future of WPS, please let us know by contacting any current board member.

During the meeting I also reported on the recent member participation survey. Here are some highlights:

Viewing (though not necessarily presenting) member presentations was the most wanted activity. The second most desired activity was editing techniques tutorials, followed by mobile phone photography. Open mind/abstract tutorials was another popular item. We will try to incorporate some of these into our upcoming programs. Please let me know if you can help.

In the survey we also asked, "if WPS were to participate in area arts/crafts fairs by having a booth/table, would you help?" While several people said they could help, no one volunteered to organize such activities.



Till next time, may you always see beauty in your viewfinder.

Fuat Baran, *President*

COVER PHOTO

OLD TRADITION OF GUATEMALA

By Betty Leung

Recently, I traveled to Guatemala, which is famous for their colorful textiles. Guatemalan weaving originated over 1,500 years ago with the ancient Maya civilization. On the sidewalk, this lady still used the old traditional way to weave her products for sale.



inFocus

Ron Carran, Editor
Dick Budnik, Web Edition

WPS Board of Directors

Dick Budnik, *Chairman of the Board, WebMaster*
Fuat Baran, *President, Social Media, Publicity*
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Julie Van Benthuyzen, *Community Outreach*
Dennis Thornton, *Competition Chair*
Leon Zelazny, *Membership Committee, Community & Arts Westchester Liaison*

Volunteers

Competitions

Mark Friedman

Competition Catalog

Jim Christensen

WPS Official Photographers ("Sharpshooters")

Arnold Breisblatt, Julie Van Benthuyzen, Melanie Rush

Guests Greeter

Silvie Epperly

Judge Coordinator

Dennis Thornton

Hospitality

Jane Gordon, Julie Van Benthuyzen, Silvie Epperly

Equipment

Fuat Baran, Gregory White

Competition Scores Reporting

Mark Friedman, Ken Salstrom

Equipment, Projectionist

Jonathan Kaplan

Award Certificates

Ron Carran

Field Trips

Jackie Ross

Committees

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Fuat Baran

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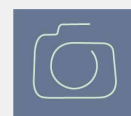
Competition Evaluation

Dick Budnik, Lois Barker

newsletter: infocus@wpsphoto.org
www.wpsphoto.org

Westchester Photographic Society

Meets 12 months a year, on Friday evenings at 7:30 pm (excepting school holidays). Meetings are virtual now until further notice. Start time is 7:30 pm.



Member of



FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

May

- 3 Competition 6A
- 10 Joel Morgovsky, "What Are 'Good' Photographs?"
- 17 Ken Salstrom, Lewis Bogaty, "Iceland"
- 24 No Meeting: Memorial Day
- 31 Competition 6B (Theme: ICM)

June

- 7 Brian Clamp, "Gallery Nuts and Bolts"
- 14 End of Year Competition
- 21 Process our Stock Photos
- 28 Process the same image in Color and B&W

July

- 5 No Meeting: Independence Day
- 12 Fuat Baran, "Facebook and Instagram"
- 19 Social Media: How Do you Display Your Work?
- 26 Arnold Breisblatt, "Exceptional Pictures with your phone"

August

- 2 Carl Walsh, "A Photojournalist View of the Natural World"
- 9 My Personal Project/Shoot with a Purpose
- 16 Member Critique
- 23 Members' Showcases
- 30 No Meeting: Labor Day

September

- 6 Straight out of the phone: Talk about your spontaneous unprocessed phone shots
- 13 TBD
- 20 Competition 1A
- 27 TBD

October

- 4 Competition 1B
- 11 TBD
- 18 TBD
- 25 TBD

Check the WPS website (wpsphoto.org) for recent changes.

Contact Information

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome and should be addressed as follows: If concerning the WPS Newsletter, In Focus, address comments to the editor at infocus@wpsphoto.org. If concerning our website, address comments to our webmaster, Dick Budnik, at webmaster@wpsphoto.org. All other comments should be addressed to our President.

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COMING UP



Joel Morgovsky on May 10

What Are "Good" Photographs Thoughts to Move Your Photography Forward

This program is an unexpected how-to. Its goal is to teach how-to think about making pictures in new and productive ways. For example, you will learn a variety of ways to define "good" and you will encounter fresh ideas about the central question of "what is a photograph?" You will also acquire a new practice, a method for entering photographs and "reading" them. You will leave the program with useful tools for growing as a creative photographer who makes meaningful, good photographs.

Bio

Joel Morgovsky is retired as Professor of Psychology at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ. He is a member of the Soho Photo Gallery in New York City, and chairs the gallery's annual National Competition. Additionally, he serves on the jury for the annual Soho Photo International Portfolio Competition.

Joel is the Founder of Photopsychology: The Psychology of Photography, which includes reading Pictures, a special method for closely studying photographs to find their meaning, feelings, and even personal characteristics of the maker. He is a respected lecturer, curator and judge at photographic societies throughout the tri-state area and is on the speaker's list of the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs.



Lewis Bogaty and Kenny Salstrom on May 17

Iceland

Lewis

Lewis Bogaty's photographs have appeared in the New York Times and other newspapers, and on the covers and pages of magazines and corporate catalogs. He has had solo exhibits in galleries throughout the area and has appeared in many group shows. His prints are owned by institutions and private individuals. He has won awards in competitions from West Virginia to Massachusetts, including the Westchester County Photo Competition. He is a member of the Westchester Photographic Society. Website: LewisBogatyPhotography.com

Kenny

I've been scuba diving and photographing for several decades. I retired October 1, 2021, and two weeks later I was on a liveboard dive boat in Belize. I have traveled so much both in and out of the US since my retirement that my nephew says that he is going to get me a Where's Waldo shirt. Since retirement I have been to Belize, Cozumel, The Sea of Cortez, Honduras, Dominica, the Philippines and Saint Croix, as well as over half a dozen states.

AREA MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

Metropolitan Museum
(www.metmuseum.org)
Met Collection

Museum of Modern Art
(www.moma.org)
Before Technicolor
Through July 21

International Center for Photography
(www.icp.org)
Many Exhibits
Through Sept. 2

New York Photography Diary
(<https://ny-photography-diary.com/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/>)
Many Exhibits

Lens Culture
Recommendations:
Photo Festivals & Photo Fairs 2024
(https://www.lensculture.com/articles/lensculture-editors-lensculture-recommendations-photo-festivals-photo-fairs-2024?utm_term=NL-03-07-2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sandy&utm_content=NL-03-07-2024&utm_campaign=NL-03-07-2024&authtoken=)

CURRENT EXHIBITS

Northern Westchester Hospital
Spring has Arrived! I See Color and Light
April 10th through September, 2024
For more information
click [HERE](#)

WPS FIELD TRIPS

Stonecrop Garden
May 8

Rockefeller Park
May 10

Wave Hill
TBA

Presby Memorial Iris Garden
TBA

<https://www.wpsphoto.org/members-field-trips>

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

Please log on to websites
to see the entire schedules.
Many events are available online.
Also see last page.

Hunts
<https://edu.huntsphoto.com>

B&H
<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/find/EventSpace.jsp>

Adorama
<http://www.adorama.com/alc/events>

SPECIAL INCENTIVES

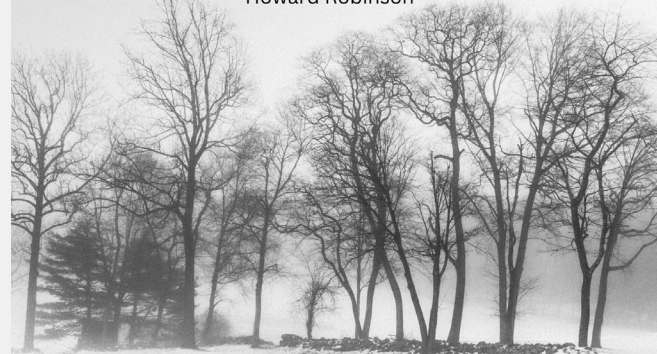
A MEMBERS-ONLY DEAL!

Susan Magnano has offered special pricing on many of her workshops.

If you are a WPS member,
click [HERE](#).

OTHER PHOTOGRAPHIC EVENTS*

“Winter Tree Scapes”
Howard Robinson



Here Coffee + Beer
20 Main Street
Ossining, NY 10562

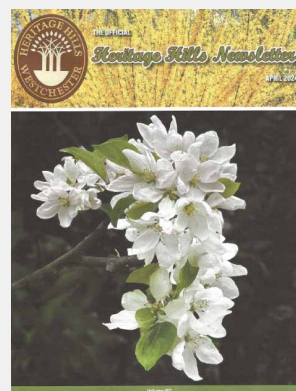
May 1st-31st

Reception
Sat May 4th 1-3 pm
RSVP 914-646-9040

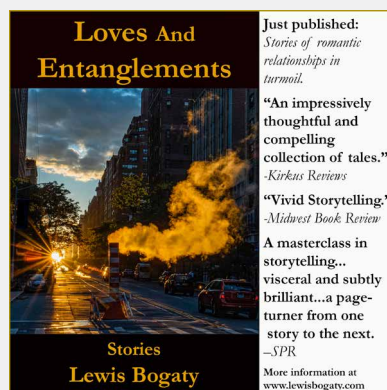
Jackie Ross receiving the
2023 Harry Hoffman Award!



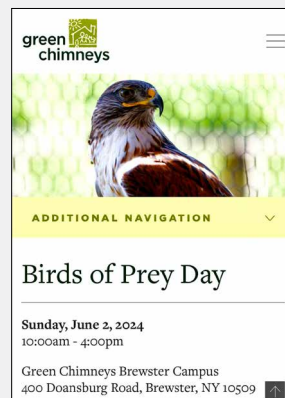
Another Barbara Pollack
Heritage Hills cover!



*Lewis wrote a book!



Just published:
Stories of romantic relationships in turmoil.
“An impressively thoughtful and compelling collection of tales.”
-Kirkus Reviews
“Vivid Storytelling.”
-Midwest Book Review
A masterclass in storytelling... visceral and subtly brilliant... a page-turner from one story to the next.
-SPR
More information at www.lewisbogaty.com



Our contact at the NWH Cancer Center is looking for a volunteer photographer to photograph a **Puppy Party**.

The date and time are **Wednesday, May 29** from 3 to 4 pm.
A beginning photographer would be great!

Contact
Luda Samuels
Northern Westchester Hospital
Associate Volunteer Experience
Program Manager
(914) 666-1925
Direct line (914) 242-7636
Gift Shop Buyer
(914) 666-1813
Lsamuels5@northwell.edu

The NWH Cancer Center is pleased to offer an exhibition of the Westchester Photographic Society titled:

Spring has Arrived! I See Color and Light!

Begins April 10, 2024

Presenting a lot of wonderful color pictures of flowers, gardens, and birds that show the beauty of Spring from a photographer's point of view.

Northern Westchester Hospital Cancer Center, 400 Main St, Mt Kisco, NY 10549
Telephone (914) 666-1200

Note: Photos are available unframed at a reduced price. Some photos are available in other sizes. To arrange a purchase of any picture in the exhibit, contact Arnold Breisblatt via email at abreis@aol.com

Personal Projects—Aug 9

This program will be focusing on the topic of “self-assignments or personal projects,” whatever you might prefer to call them. Personal projects have been employed, in one form or another, by virtually every accomplished photographer. These projects are a bit different from our traditional showcases or other image sharing opportunities. Personal projects are not a potpourri of nice images. Rather, they represent a set of images based on a specific pre-determined theme.

Self-assignments are personal vehicles that photographers use to foster greater concentration in a chosen area of interest. Personal projects are extremely variable, in terms of style and subject matter. They differ from a general image sharing in that the work is more directed, specific or concentrated, on an identified topic or photographic style.

This evening's program will begin with a concise overview of the nature and potential benefits of enjoining yourself in a self-assignment. Examples of personal projects, as used and/or

recommend by others, will be provided to help the listener appreciate the breadth and variety of personal projects. Then, members who sign up, will be invited to present a synopsis of their “self-assignment/personal assignment” with the expectations that each presenter will address these basic questions.

1. How did you come to choose this self-assignment?
2. What did you do? Explain the process, of planning, capturing, post-processing, etc., through a presentation of your images.
3. What did you learn from this project?
4. Do you have another project in mind?

This program is intended to build upon the WPS axiom “Photography with a Purpose”. Self-assignments are a way to help train you eye/mind to look for and see visual patterns, subject matter, and/or compositional elements. It is a process to help build your skills as a photographer.

The long-term goal of this program is to stimulate interest for individuals to initiate their own self-assignments. Eventually, a recurring “self-assignments” program could become part of our overall member sharing activities. Members will be able to update their ongoing projects and introduce new ones.

Dennis Thornton will be moderating this program. If you want to present one of your personal projects, please contact him at dennist@wpsphoto.org.

Taking a Bite Out of Martha's Vineyard

By Dennis Thornton

This past fall, my wife and I decided to visit the popular Martha's Vineyard (MV). In part by intention and in part because of scheduling conflicts, we planned our visit for mid-October.

The advantage was we were able to get ferry reservations more easily, housing was available and the notorious summer crowds were non-existent. The disadvantage was that many of the shops, entertainment venues, restaurants and the historic "Flying Horses Carousel" were already closed for the season.

From the multiple locals we spoke to, all agreed that the summer crowds are oppressive, albeit being their financial lifeblood. The year-round population is a fraction of the summer invasion and the tempo changes dramatically when the hoards vacate.

Vineyarders gossiped about their celebrity sightings with relish. It seems that everyone who is anyone goes to Martha's Vineyard for a summer sojourn. Every celebrity is viewed as royalty from Barack and Michelle Obama to Keith Richards. The island etiquette is to look but don't touch, meaning don't bother them. It's an agreeable arrangement.

Because it's an island you have to get there with your car, via a 45-minute ferry ride from Woods Hole, on the Upper Cape. The main places to stay are the upscale Edgartown, the working town of Vineyard Haven, aka Tisbury, and the "honky-tonk" tourist town of Oak Bluffs, where we stayed. The island of Chappaquiddick is only accessible by another ferry from Edgartown. Just watch out when crossing over the infamous bridge.



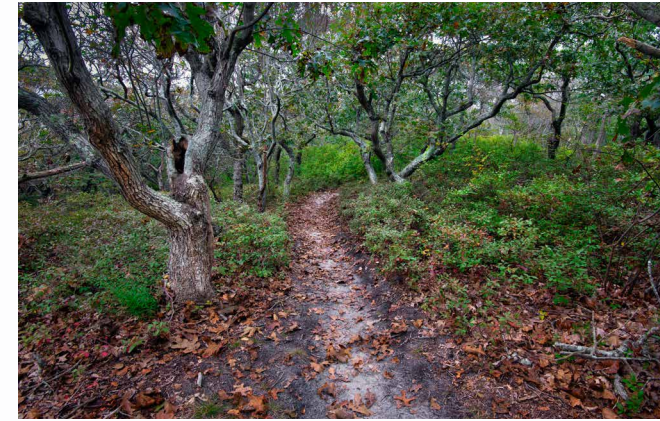
So, you want to know what there is to do during the off-season, and is it a photographer's paradise or just a boring bust?

Well, there are three approachable lighthouses. Edgartown has the best overall setting and is suitable to photograph both at dawn and at sunset. I had hoped to have the site to myself for a sunrise shot. But, just at the moment the sun was breaking the distant horizon, a bohemian couple, smoking a morning joint, stepped right in front of me and just stood, in their purple haze.

Oak Bluffs is very popular, as a summer resort. In the center of town are the tourist attraction Methodist Camp Meeting Association cottages. This community was established over 150 years ago, and at its zenith had some 500 miniature "Gingerbread cottages," configured in concentric circles around the central tabernacle used for revival meetings. While still used for this purpose, the community has become mixed and the number of houses has been reduced to about 300. Initially built for summer stays, many remain un-insulated and without utility upgrades. One woman we conversed with was a seventh-generation resident. She lives there year-round with her family. Because these structures are on the Historic Register and are managed by the town association, they were restricted in what structural and internal renovations they could make. These petite homes are very cute with ornate woodwork and are all painted in unique multi-colored patterns. You would think that they would be ideal for being photographed, but I found them challenging.

Edgartown is known for its stately 19th-century whaling captains' homes and general upscale appearance. This is where the rich celebrities go, and there are plenty of upscale eateries as well as high-end jewelry stores and fine art galleries.

On the southwest shore is the town of Chilmark, which has mostly summer activity. One of



the more talked-about venues is Lucy Vincent Beach. This is a beautiful beach studded with interesting boulders. In season, it is exclusively reserved for those with an "island residents" pass. It is also a clothing-optional beach. We were able to walk on the beach with clothes on and without a pass. It was off-season. Photographers go there for dawn and sunset shots and for long exposures of the waves splashing against the rocks.

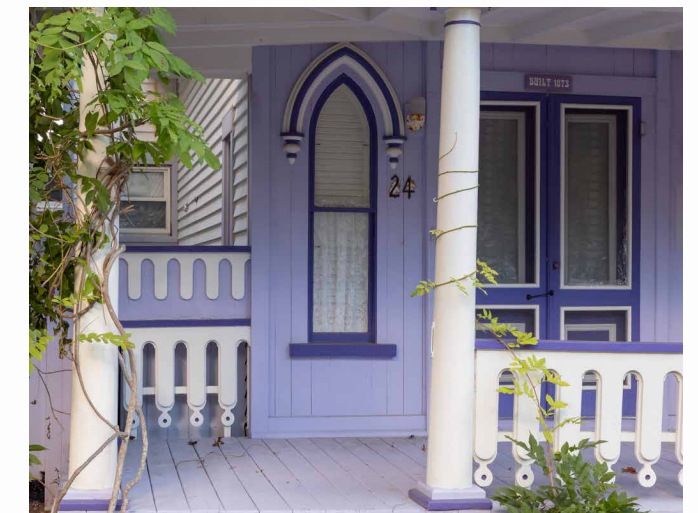
All over the island, there are numerous tracts of land set aside as nature preserves and parks. We went to a farm institute with animals. Cedar Tree Neck Wildlife Sanctuary was lovely with gnarled wind-swept trees. Polly Hill Arboretum was very nice but admittedly would have been more of a visual feast earlier in the season when extensive flowerbeds would have been in bloom. There were strolls on South Beach, as well as Paul's Point and Squibnocket Beach. On the westerly part of the island is the town of Aquinnah where you will find the Gay Head Lighthouse and the Gay Head Cliffs. The latter is a sunset destination, albeit requiring you to walk on the sandy beach for about 40 minutes to reach the most photographic section.

There were many interesting places to see and visit, especially a very quaint General Store, the oldest on the island, which the preservation association bailed out financially because of its historical and cultural importance. We passed up an alpaca farm that wanted \$8 just to see a small herd that was housed in a dimly lit barn. In Vineyard Haven I strolled through an active sailboat shipbuilding yard. There I met a friendly guy who had lived in Chappaqua, NY. You just never know whom you might meet.

The Vineyard is popular for its beautiful beaches, celebrity sightings, good seafood and casual lifestyle. But, there is something else that MV is most famous for. It was the location of the fictional "Amity Island," which is the setting of the 1975 Steven Spielberg blockbuster thriller film "Jaws." This movie put the fear of the dorsal-finned god into generations who would forever be afraid of going back into the water.

It is considered a tourist's must, to visit the filming locations. There is the "bridge scene," shot near the Bend in the Road Beach, where our great white friend swims into the pond to munch on the man in the rowboat. There are multiple beach locations, like where the black Labrador "Pipit" jumps in water to retrieve the thrown stick, never to return. There is the still-active fishing village of Menemsha, which is where the film's primary characters, police chief Martin Brody (Roy Scheider), marine biologist Hooper (Richard Dreyfuss) and the intriguing tritagonist Captain Quint, the professional shark hunter (Robert Shaw) first meet, and then set out from to catch the marauding *Carcharodon carcharias*. The movie's mechanical monster had recurring malfunctions, which prevented it from being filmed in a more apparent manner, as initially intended. So, in Hitchcock fashion, the fish is not openly filmed in the early segments, making it more perceived than seen, which results in a palpable increase of suspense and tension.

Everywhere you go there are Jaws/shark-related memorabilia and souvenirs. Posters on every wall and shelves filled with books on shark attacks and how to try and survive them. This is ideal reading material while sitting on the beach, in the hot sun, just yearning to jump blindly into the water and splash around. There are myriad beach towels and all kinds of apparel from hats to socks, and an array of T-shirts, all with this toothy motif. But the zeal for this silver screen phenomenon doesn't stop at the gift shop.



There is a very popular restaurant in Oak Bluffs where the movie "Jaws" is played on a continuous loop, in the bar area. Once in a while you can hear a cheer from the patrons as they hoist their drinks and spur on the munching exploits of their finned anti-hero. Another one bites the waves. The chef is noted for his unique dishes with a menu that can change nightly. However, there are a number of island staples. Some of these dishes are: "Severed Swimmers' Limb," entangled in

fresh seaweed, served with Mussels Marinara and, when in season, also garnished with live soft-shelled crabs. Just mouthwatering. For the meat lovers there is the “Young Boy Tartare” served atop a shredded float of tri-colored pasta, smothered in a blood red pomegranate reduction sauce with capers and white serrated tooth onions. So yummy as to die for. Then there is the house specialty, which is only served family style. This gustatory favorite is interchangeably known as the “Captain Quint” or “USS Indianapolis” all you can eat buffet. Always in demand, you have to patiently wait for it to be prepared. You can sometimes hear the quickening “Dah-dum... dah-dum...dah-dum” of the patron’s heartbeats in anticipation of the arrival of this dish. But watch your hands, when this delicacy is finally placed on the table a feeding frenzy is sure to ensue. You can always swim around the table and come back for a second and third bite. Everyone leaves satiated.

All in all, it was a pleasant vacation. My wife and I found the Vineyard to be as beautiful as had been described. We enjoyed lovely weather, saw many interesting sites, and went on numerous enjoyable hikes. Going off-season allowed us to move around without the encumbrances of crowds and traffic jams. As we went in the middle of October, we were subject to many places having already shut down for the season. Returning at the end of September would be a better compromise.

Given the timing, I was not able to shoot crimson boats with reflections, in the water. They had already been taken out for winter storage. Nevertheless, it was fun, and I was satisfied with the photographic opportunities availed to me. As it was late in the season, we did not go in the water and so always felt safe. But I couldn’t help myself from gazing out onto the watery expanse and letting my imagination, with trepidation, dip below the surface. “Dah-dum...dah-dum...dah-dum”



Trips to the Hammond Museum and the Pepsico Sculpture Garden

with Jackie Ross



Our trip to the Hammond Museum was very nice. The apple and cherry blossoms were not all out yet, but we got some great macro shots, and just had fun to be out together!

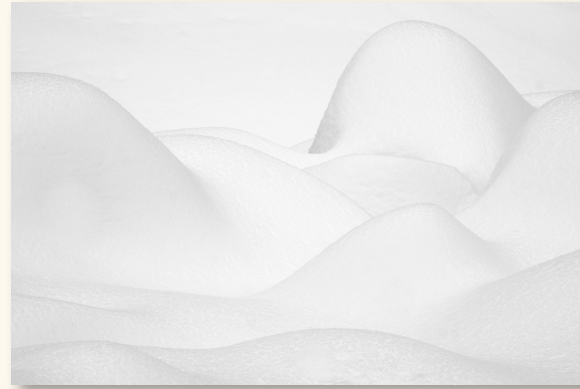
The Pepsico Garden field trip turned out to be really nice. The sun came out and the lighting was fantastic. We got great instructions on shooting macros from Mitchell Druck and Francesca. We'll go back in the summer for the lily pond!

Here are some pictures from Linda, Mitchell, Jackie and Dennis.



DIGITAL BLACK & WHITE

DIGITAL BLACK & WHITE



Jennifer Dooley, First
Snow Bumps



Anastasia Tompkins, Second
Hippos at Play



Jackie Ross, Third
Eye on You



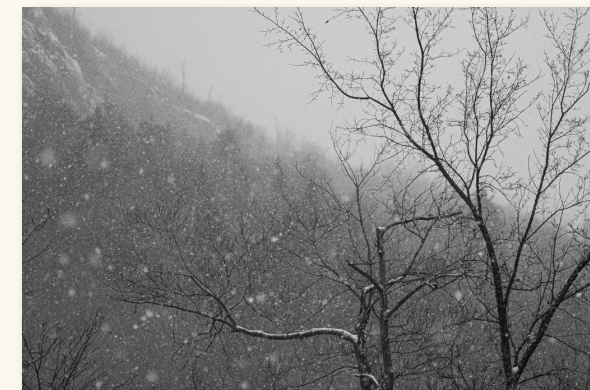
Linda Austrian, Third
Welcome Inside Our Tulip Home



Mitchell Druck, Second
Screech



Mitchell Druck, Third
Double Vision



Jennifer Dooley, HM
It's Snowing

THEME: WABI SABI

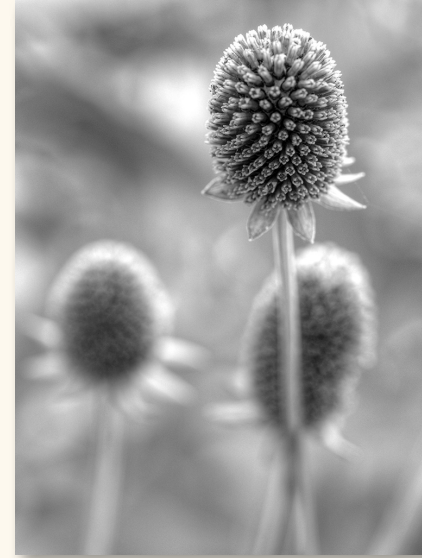
THEME: WABI SABI



Anastasia Tompkins, First
Winter Leaves



Anastasia Tompkins, Second
Pods



Nancy Faulds, Third
Seed Pods



Dennis Thornton, Third
Wabi Sabi Pear



Dennis Thornton, Second
Rocky Peony Past Prime



Arnold Breisblatt, HM
Faded Begonia

NYMACC Field Trip to Central Park, NYC

May 4, 2024

Rain date: May 18, 2024*

The New York Metro Area Camera Council's field trip to Central Park to photograph both popular and lesser known areas.



Enjoy the park from a different perspective... musicians, foliage, birds, animals, horse and carriages, street scenes, reflections, castles, bridges, and so much more....
From 2pm-through sunset



Photographers of every level, various camera gear, including tripods, and eternal curiosity are welcome.

Photo ideas, techniques and support will be shared on a friendly, informal basis.



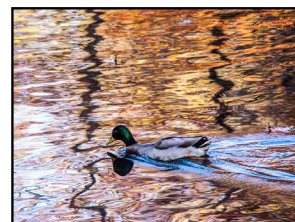
Register deadline: May 1, 2024
Registration does not include food.
NYMACC Member cost: \$10
Non-NYMACC Member cost: \$15
Reminder: NYMACC photo club membership includes all members of that club.



REGISTER

partial list of NYMACC supporters (click for their websites)

Silvana Della Camera	Cardinal Camera
Lisa & Tom Cuchara	Dan's Camera
Arik Gorban	Arnie Kastenbaum
Kevin Loughlin	Hazel Meridiith
Steve Morton	Temu Nana
Todd Nettelhorst	Nancy Ori
Robert Rodriguez Jr.	Joseph Squillante



**All registrants will be notified in advance if we must change due to rain.*

[New York Metro Area Camera Council](#)

Since WPS is a NYMACC member, all WPS members pay only the \$10 fee.

inFocus

The Newsletter of the
Westchester Photographic Society
Ron Carran, editor
P.O. Box 405, Ossining, NY 10562

Sponsors of the Westchester Photographic Society

*Ask for your discount from sponsors marked with asterisks

** Discounts with WPS identification

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Hunt's Camera 1-800-924-8682

100 Main St., Melrose, MA 02176-6104

www.huntsphotoandvideo.com

Thomson's Art Supply* 914-949-4885

184 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10601

www.thomsonsart.com

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Hunt's Photo Education

- [Online: Multi-Session Series-Working with Landscape Photography](#)
- [Print Review Monthly](#)

B&H Event Space

- [Intro to Lighting Part 3: Speedlites | Hosted by Sony](#)
- [Intro to Lighting Part 4: Strobes | Hosted by Sony](#)

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