



“B-CCC at Ocean City”, by Warren E. Wilson, won HM for Advanced Digital in March’s “Out of Focus” competition. See more on pages 5-9.



THE VIEWFINDER

Comments From the President

There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside of you” ~ Dr. Maya Angelou

by Jeanine Cummins, President

Photography is an art form that allows us to use light and time to tell our story. Rick Sammon writes that photographers look at all the details in a scene, and our eyes and cameras appreciate the highlights and shadows, contrast and colors, that non-photographers don’t see or know how to appreciate¹. How would you answer, What does your photography mean? We have so many stories to tell that are founded on our lives, where we lived, how we lived, and who has crossed our paths.

The competition theme this month is Nature with Duane Heaton as our judge. There are two field trips planned for April; one to the Cherry Blossom Festival parade and Hancock Resolution Farm Park. Check the Viewfinder and meeting notes for additional

information. Our pièce de resistance is our annual slideshow presentation scheduled for April 15. Please submit your presentations to Vince by April 1. The How-To Tabletop Photography workshop is in-person and hands-on.

In case you missed it, March 31 was World Backup Day. Take the pledge, “I solemnly swear to back up my important documents and precious memories on March 31.” It’s never too late to back up your information. Read the article on B&H’s Explora (<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/computers/tips-and-solutions/take-the-pledge-protect-your-data-on-world-backup-day>).

Continued on page 3

Calendar

April 1	Competition	Theme: Nature
April 8	Photo Talk	Review of competition winners
April 13	Field Trip	Cherry Blossom Parade, DC
April 15	Slideshow	Annual Slideshow Presentation
April 22	How-To Meeting	Tabletop Photography

Table of Contents

Editor’s Notes	p. 3
Meeting Schedule	p. 4
Upcoming Events	p. 4
Competition Corner	p. 5-9
How-To Meeting	p. 10
April Field Trip	p. 10
Out & About	p. 11
Gardens Photo.	p. 12
Member Projects	p. 13-14

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President
Jeanine Cummins
.....president@b-ccc.org
- VP Programs
Bruce Edwards.....
..... editb222@gmail.com
- VP Membership
William Bailey
..... bbravoecho22@gmail.com
- VP Competition
Charles Jemmott
..... cejemmott@hotmail.com
- VP How-to
Karen Smale.....
..... karen.smale@gmail.com
- VP Photo Talk
Glenn Thompson.....
..... hush1074@gmail.com
- Treasurer
Jin-chung Hsu
..... astro_hsu@yahoo.com
- Secretary
Dena Selby
..... dselby1041@gmail.com
- PSA Representative
Denise Hill.....
..... shill1n2@aol.com
- Newsletter Editor
Warren Wilson.....
..... warren_eugene@hotmail.com
- Immediate Past President -Roz Kleffman

STAFF

- Competition Assistant
Renee Butler
..... butlerbiz21@gmail.com
- Database Manager
Bob Matthews
..... database@b-ccc.org
- Field Trip Committee Leaders
Vincent and Leslie Ferrari.....
..... vincentferrari@gmail.com
- Webmaster
Bev Shomo
..... bevshomo@gmail.com
- Web Editor
Vincent Ferrari.....
..... vincentferrari@gmail.com
- Exhibit Coordinator
Bob Matthews ... bobamatthews@verizon.net

Bowie-Crofton Camera Club

P.O. Box 515

Bowie, Maryland 20718-0515

Articles for The Viewfinder

THE VIEWFINDER is distributed via e-mail early in the month and at the first meeting of each month during the club year. Contributions of articles of interest to photographers are welcomed.

The deadline for submitting articles is the second Monday of the month prior to publication (ie, articles submitted in early October will be published in the November newsletter).

Membership Rates

Individual	\$40.00
Family	\$55.00

Meeting Nights

The Bowie-Crofton Camera Club meets the first through fourth Monday nights of each month September through May in the Fellowship Hall of the All Saints Lutheran Church at US 301 and Mt. Oak Road in Bowie. Meetings begin at 7:30. Visitors are always welcome.

Articles should be sent via e-mail to viewfinder@b-ccc.org. Attachments as MS Word, .txt, or .rtf files are acceptable. Photos and illustrations should be separate attachments.

Photographs should be submitted electronically as JPEGs with a "high" quality compression setting. The optimal photograph will be no more than 800 pixels in its greatest dimension.

Photographic Society of America (PSA)

The Bowie-Crofton Camera Club is a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and of the Maryland Photography Alliance (MPA).

For information regarding the benefits of a PSA individual membership and for PSA-sponsored events contact Denise Hill (301) 809-1399 or e-mail psa@b-ccc.org.



Comments From the President - continued from page 1

by Jeanine Cummins, President

Think about the question I posed earlier. I would love for you to send me whatever word or words that come to mind and see how we view something we all say we love. I will use these words for my article next month. You can apply that question to the future of the camera club. Bowie-Crofton Camera Club is based on volunteerism. There is nothing automatic about it. Everyone has something to offer. It could mean safely showing up, to in-person meetings or providing suggestions for speakers and How-to's. Submit images to our PSA representative. We are now looking for a Programming VP and a President to move the club forward. Please don't depend on the same people to do the same thing. Everyone has a voice.

You know I have to recognize National Poetry Month, author unknown.

Silent Narrator²

A silent narrator behind the glass,
Telling tales of present and past.
Through the viewfinder, sights align,
In stillness, life's moments shine.

¹ Sammon, R. (2019). Photo Therapy Motivation and Wisdom: Discovering the Power of Pictures.

² Artistry in verse: Exploring 25 short poems about photography in elegant couplets. Poems Please. (2023, December 20). <https://poemsplease.com/short-poems-about-photography/>

Editor's Notes

by Warren Wilson, Editor

Starting this month, The Viewfinder has added two new features, with yet more to follow in the future. The idea is to give our members more opportunities to sharpen their photographic skills and push their work out into the community.

The first is **Pop-up Photo**. On an ongoing schedule, we'll challenge our photo skills. Pop-up Photo (or using its acronym PuP) will select a subject/venue/theme. Participants then treat it as an assignment. Once complete, they will send some of their images to The Viewfinder for publication. We'll cement the guidelines as we go along. Our first PuP details are at the end of the Sheep and Wool article on page 4.

The second feature is **Member Projects**. This is designed to give members a chance to hone their

story-telling skills. The idea is for each month at least one member will present a story in pictures. Including a bit of text helps the audience to follow your story. Of course, you can work it the other way. You may want to write a story. Write the story, add photographs—we'll become photojournalists together! This month, we start off Member Projects with two of our members, Steve Bruza and Stefan Kaben. Find their contributions on pages 13-14.

Also, there is a slot open for the June Parting Shot, located on the last page of this newsletter. Write a description and provide a copy of the image. Send it to warren_eugene@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events

Sheep and Wool Festival and Pop-up Photo

by Warren Wilson, Editor



Like clockwork, the Annual Sheep and Wool Festival is held the first weekend in May. For this year, the 51st., the dates are Saturday and Sunday, May 4-5.

There will be plenty of food and entertainment. Both days allow entry at 8:30am, rain or shine. Plan to go early because the traffic can become an issue. Held at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, Maryland, it features sheep, Border Collies, textiles, exhibits and more.

For details visit their website:

<https://sheepandwool.org/>

Let's try something new: let's go on a venture. For now, we can call it a Pop-up Photo. Feel free to call it by its acronym: PuP. Short of being called a field trip, we arrive/pop-up at the festival ready to photograph. Set out by yourself or grab a partner or two. Our photo theme for the day: Sheep, Food and Music. There's no set time for lunch. You're on your own. Photograph for as long as you wish. Send some of your themed images to The Viewfinder. If there's a story behind the image(s), we may have room to publish the story along with the pictures.



Odyssey of Light

by Warren Wilson, Editor

The Maryland Photography Alliance will be presenting the Odyssey of Light online on April 13-14, 8:30am-12:30pm daily. There will be a total of four guest speakers, two on Saturday and two on

Sunday. Check their website for details: <https://www.mdphotoalliance.org/odyssey-of-light-2024>

Meeting Schedule for Remainder of Club Year

Keep track of which meetings are in-person, and which are virtual only

by Warren Wilson, Editor

Please look over the schedule for the remainder of the club year, and especially note which meetings will be held in person, and which will be virtual only. In person meetings will be hybrid, so they can also be attended virtually.

Competitions: All competitions for the duration of the club year are in person.

- April 1
- May 6
- End of Year Awards – June 3

Photo Talk: All Photo Talk sessions will be held via Zoom only.

Program Meetings:

- April 15 – Annual Slideshow – In Person
- May 20 – Robert Sullivan - Night Photog. Zoom

How-To Meetings:

- April 22 – Tabletop Photog. (Hands-on)
- May – No Meeting scheduled.

Any changes going forward will be announced.

Mentoring Group: All Mentoring Group meetings are Zoom only. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month.

Competition Corner

March 4 “Out of Focus” Competition Results

by Charles Jemmott, VP Competition

Mark Franco was our judge for the March “Out of Focus” competition. We submitted 80 images (68 Advanced, 12 Novice) for Mark to review.

This theme required many of the participants to dig deep into their hard gained portfolio of photographic techniques. Many were uncomfortable leading up to this competition, but in the end the challenge brought out the best in most of us, and we were rewarded with an impressive display of your diverse skills, and photographic styles. My thanks to all who participated in this competition!

Our judge Mark Franco also noted the challenge when I asked him to judge this competition. As Mark has judged for us before we have come to know he is analytical, with great appreciation for images that

clearly demonstrate the skills of the image’s maker. Thank you, Mark!

Congratulations to all the winners, and good luck to all in April’s “Nature” competition.

We will begin collecting prints for the End of Year competition April 1, any print that received 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM during this competition year is eligible for the EOY competition.

May Competition Judge

The judge for our May “Open” competition will be Pete Morton

by Charles Jemmott, VP Competition

Pete began taking pictures in 1959 when he lived in Taiwan, as the son of an Army officer who was stationed on that beautiful island. Over the years his interest in photography continued to grow. In the 1980’s he spent many hours in the darkroom he built in the basement of his home.

In 2001 Pete became an avid Adobe Photoshop user. Soon his darkroom was replaced by this new-found software. Pete’s interest in Photoshop and digital photography never slowed. He accepted invitations to lecture on digital photography at the university level in Cornwall, England and later to teach advanced Photoshop techniques to professional photographers in London.

After retiring, Pete joined the Silver Spring Camera Club where he is currently a director and frequent

presenter. He is also very active in the Photographic Society of America (PSA), where he leads a photography study group and selects photographers for the monthly Digital Dialog Showcase.

Pete has received numerous awards, both local and international, and has been recognized by his club as the Photographer of the Year. His work has hung in the Maryland State House.

Pete is a Certified Photography Judge in the state of Maryland. He has critiqued portfolios, judged dozens of camera club competitions in Maryland, New York, Oklahoma as well as for the Photographic Society of America (PSA). Pete feels that listening, evaluating, and learning from the feedback and suggestions of others is how we grow as artists.

Competition Corner

March 4 Competition Results

Competition Standings Following the March Competition

Advanced Color Prints

William (Bill) Bailey . 61
 Karen Smale. 30
 Stanley Turk. 22
 Jeanine Cummins. . . 11

Novice Color Prints

Beverly Shomo. 6
 Alice Collins. 2

Advanced Digital

William (Bill) Bailey. 55
 Karen Smale. 30
 Charles Jemmott . . 28
 Bruce Edwards. . . . 27

Novice Digital

Javia Walters 55
 Sharon Ruhly. 48
 Alice Collins. 36
 Renee Butler. 32

Advanced Monochrome

William (Bill) Bailey .41
 Stanley Turk. 36
 Albert Alexander. . . 8
 Karen Smale. 7

Novice Monochrome

Beverly Shomo. . . . 6
 Alice Collins. 1

Novice Digital (10 Entries)

1st Paper Dance Sharon Ruhly
 2nd Mardi Gras. Renee Butler
 3rd Mill Wheel. Alice Collins

Novice Monochrome Prints (0 Entries)

Novice Color Prints (0 Entries)



*Woven, 1st Advanced Digital,
 William (Bill) Bailey*



*Famous Writer on the Beach, 3rd Advanced Digital,
 Karen Smale*

Advanced Digital (42 Entries)

1st Woven William (Bill) Bailey
 2nd The Whirling Bench . . . Bruce Edwards
 3rd Famous Writer on the Beach Karen Smale
 HM Hydrangias. Bill Collins
 HM Baltimore Grand_Prix-2580. Glenn E. Thompson
 HM B-CCC at Ocean City . . . Warren E. Wilson
 HM DFW tram Out of Focus. Dena Selby
 HM Hydrangeas in vase NECC. Roz Kleffman
 HM Leaf Zoom 2021 Robert Howard
 HM Two More Too Much . . . Stephen Bruza
 HM DSC_3478. Glenn E. Thompson

Advanced Monochrome Prints (12 Entries)

1st Movements from the Hull. William (Bill) Bailey
 2nd Carousel, 2024 Robert Howard
 3rd Forest Impressions . . . Bill Collins

Advanced Color Prints (16 Entries)

1st Santa Catalina ICM 2 . . . Karen Smale
 2nd At the Lake Bruce Goodman
 3rd Duck in Motion, 2018 . . Robert Howard
 HM Leafy Fall William (Bill) Bailey

More Competition Photos on page 7.

Competition Corner

March 4 Competition Results, continued



*Two More Too Much, HM Advanced Digital,
Stephen Bruza*



*Santa Catalina ICM 2, 1st Advanced Color Prints,
Karen Smale*



*Leafy Fall, HM Advanced Color Prints,
William (Bill) Bailey*



*Forest Impressions, 3rd Advanced Monochrome,
Bill Collins*

More Competition

Photos

on page 8.

Competition Corner

March 4 Competition Results, continued



*Hydrangias, HM Advanced Digital,
Bill Collins*



*Movements from the Hull, 1st Advanced Monochrome,
William (Bill) Bailey*



*B-CCC at Ocean City, HM Advanced Digital,
Warren E. Wilson*

Competition Themes for Next Club Year

2024 - 2025 Themes

- **October 7 – “Open”:** Any subject, anytime, anywhere.
- **November 11 – “Reflections”:** Images are to be composed with a reflection (person(s), animal(s), object, seen....) as the subject. The reflection may be sharp and mirrorlike, or wavy and distorted. Please use reflective surfaces (metal, glass, water...); Computer/AI generated reflections are not allowed.
- **December 2 – “Doorways”:** Doorways are transition point marking the boundary of one area/activity/function, and entry point to something new. Viewers of these images should contemplate where the doorway leads with a mixture of curiosity, anticipation, foreboding, relief.... (you lead the viewer, you decide).
- **January 6 – “Dutch Angles”:** Dutch Angle (a.k.a.: Dutch Tilt, German/Canted/Oblique Angle) is a creative composition technique where the image maker rotates the dominant verticals (buildings, posts....), and dominant horizontals (floors, streets, horizon...) at an angle with the edges of the frame. The celebrated photographer Gary Winogrand often used this technique.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwDnOHdgSp&t=259s>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weh4U6U5AzE&t=448s>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHYfsYQDr6M>
- **February 3 – “Travel”:** Travel Images should be taken greater than 50 miles from Bowie/home and should capture a place or time, land or culture. Show us your best images and have us long to go there. The Ernie Nagy Travel Award will be given to the best of show.
- **March 3 – “Diptych Maximalism/Minimalism”:** Each entry must be a Diptych (two separate images are placed side by side); with the same theme. One image is to be a maximalist, the other minimalist both expressing the same theme.
 - Example - Concert: Maximal (the crowd reacting to the performance), Minimal (a closeup of a pick strumming a guitar string)
 - Diptych References:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlpwBFkXbu0>
 - Photoshop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCSFh0rlKJE>
 - Lightroom: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4fE_mmlabI
 - Maximalism refers to a chaotic image, with a lot of elements competing with, and playing off of each other. However, within the chaos there is balance. This type of image is very hard to create in a balanced way, but when it works it can be a delight for the eyes that allows a viewer to explore through the scene.
 - <https://amoragegia.com/2022/06/08/lens-artists-maximalism-vs-minimalism/>
 - <https://digital-photography-school.com/a-new-photographers-guide-to-composition/>
 - Minimalism refers to keeping a photograph very simple, such as an image with a single subject and a pleasing and calm background. This can create a very powerful and graphic design.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD0umiEO-0c&t=20s>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih4lnLiYbiU>
- **April 7 – “Nature”:** Focus on nature and natural things. The photograph may not depict any evidence of the ‘hand of man’. Simply put - no fences, cans, manmade structures, etc. Novice Nature Trophy will be awarded during this competition for the best in show Novice nature image.
- **May 5 – “Open”:** Any subject, anytime, anywhere.

April How-To

Tabletop Photography

by Karen Smale, VP How-To

On April 22, our How-To event will be an in-person hands-on "tabletop photography" session. Bring your camera, a tripod, and a flash (if you have one). We will have various stations with lights, a wide variety of still-life displays and materials you can customize/arrange, and a light-table for back-lit photo subjects like flowers. Learn the difference between lay-flat and upright tabletop photography, practice your composition skills, find out how depth of field can make or break your photos, experiment with lighting for the best results. And, have fun!

Feel free to bring your own items to add to and personalize your photographs. You'll leave with a set of photos you probably couldn't do by yourself at home and, hopefully, a better understanding of how to do tabletop photography!

If you would be willing to bring items for people to photograph, or lights/backdrops to contribute to the event, please reach out to Karen Smale at karen.smale@gmail.com. The more the merrier!

Field Trip: April 13

Cherry Blossom Parade, Washington, DC

by Stanley Turk, Field Trip Leader

The Cherry Blossom Parade is an annual event terminating the Washington DC Cherry Blossom Festival. The parade has balloons, floats, entertainers, marching bands, military bands, and beauty queens. This is a good opportunity to practice photo journalism, event photography and street photography.

You will be able to photograph helium balloons being inflated. Photograph volunteers being trained in balloon handling. Photograph beauty queens from many nations and states.

We will meet at 8 AM at the intersection of 7th Street SW and Jefferson Drive SW. The balloon inflation starts at 8 AM. Also, staging of the participants starts at 8 AM. The parade starts at exactly 10 AM.



Contact: stanley.turk@verizon.net

Out and About

Club Members attend receptions

by Warren Wilson, Editor

Five of the club's members attended a couple of artist receptions last month. Their photography is exhibited in two local venues: the Lowe House Building in Annapolis (through April 10). The other exhibit is at the Bowie City Hall (through May 18). Shown here are the photographers alongside their exhibit prints.

Shown left to right: (at the Lowe Building) Kim Kowalewski, Stanley Turk, Stefan Kaben, Vincent Ferrari, Marion Shipman, and Stefan Kaben (last two at the Bowie City Hall).



Gardens Photography

Kenilworth, Brookside, Meadowlark, U.S. Botanic and Longwood Gardens

by Warren Wilson, Editor



It's official! Spring has sprung! Actually, it began at 11:06pm on March 19th. Surely, most of us were likely to have been rolling over in bed at that time and could have cared less. But, Spring is a great time to be out photographing nature as it reawakens after its long sleep.

In our area, we are treated with having several Gardens to visit. They're all photography-friendly and are either free or low-cost.

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is located at 1550 Anacostia Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20019. There are plenty of aquatic plants and birds. It is said that 248 species of birds visit the Gardens each year. Check their website for more information: <https://www.nps.gov/keaq/index.htm>

Brookside Gardens is located at 1800 Glenallan Ave, Wheaton, Maryland. There is no admission fee. More

information on their website: <https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-gardens/>

Meadowlark is located at 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct, Vienna, Virginia 22182. Fees range \$4-\$8. More information on their website: <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/meadowlark-botanical-gardens>

The U.S. Botanic Gardens is located at 100 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20001. It is comprised of 3 addresses. There is the Conservatory, the Gated Outdoor Gardens and the Bartholdi Fountains and Gardens. See more information on their website: <https://www.usbg.gov/>

If you are up for a 2-hour drive, there is Longwood Gardens, located at 1001 Longwood Rd, Kennett Square, PA 19348. Note that they are closed on Tuesdays. More information on their website: <https://longwoodgardens.org/>



Member Projects: Stefan Kaben

Benefits of a Project--Embraced by the Light

by Stefan Kaben

It seems that there are always a few broad photographic ideas swirling around in my head, developing in slow motion. It can be very useful to zero in on a couple of them as photo projects and keep them in mind when I'm out shooting. Over the years, here are few of mine: fallen leaf imprints on pavement; past-their-prime plants; ice on frozen streams; or something more abstract, like my slide show this month, "The Middle Distance."

A number of years ago, such an idea was framing buildings with foreground objects, very often trees or

other foliage. A subset of that compositional notion became a project to use streetlights as the foreground objects. Although I no longer seek out these kinds of images, I recently stumbled across one, dug out a few more, and am now sharing them with you.

The results might fall short of "fine art," but any such project can help us engage with our environment on different levels, and give us something specific to look for in the midst of looking for anything that's interesting. What are your projects?



2007-Seattle



2008-Szentendre, Hungary



2009-Chicago



2010-Sydney, Australia



2014-Denver

Member Projects: Steve Bruza

Brooms

by Steve Bruza

Last year I spent about an hour at the Sheep & Wool Festival photographing corn brooms. I enjoyed chatting with the broom vendor and learning how he acquired the business and about his travels around the country. When I said his handmade brooms were especially photogenic, he opened the back of his truck for me to get unique access (#1). I tried a few shots around his displays (#2, #3), but I wasn't getting anything beyond the ordinary. Since I often experiment

with ICM I made a few with modest success (Before #4, After #5). However, not until I got in close with the stack of brooms still in the truck did I get one I really liked, something almost abstract (#6). Key Learnings: Making new friends can often give you special access and allowing time for the subject to speak to you to capture it differently.



Parting Shot

This month's Parting Shot is from Beth Fabey. If you would like to have your image and story presented here, send it to:

warren_eugene@hotmail.com

Beth writes:

Beavers showed up one day at my son's house and busily created this beautiful scene in his backyard.

Spring came and so did the wood ducks with little hatchlings swimming on the pond and bluegills beneath. The hatchlings and fish attracted a quartet of eagles and a pair of fox.

Sadly, the beavers disappeared as quickly as they had appeared. The dam fell into disrepair; the pond became a weed-infested mud flat that had to be bushwhacked. And so, the circle of life continues to evolve....

-- Beth Fabey



The Viewfinder

Bowie-Crofton Camera Club
P.O. Box 515
Bowie, Maryland 20718-0515

