



Motocross at Budds Creek MX Park, Maryland. Photo by Javia Walters.



THE VIEWFINDER

Presidents' Notes

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall." – F. Scott Fitzgerald

by Roz Kleffman and Stefan Kaben, Co-Presidents

Autumn has Fallen

The air is cooler, making it easier to get outdoors. The trees are turning, making a sweet dessert for the eyes. The breeze is cathartic, making us feel either newly vigorous or nostalgic for summer. And the camera club is back in full swing!

Take your camera for a walk --- around the block, in a park, through the woods, amid the city's hustle, wherever your fancy takes you. And make a wonderful image or two or three or After all, our first competition is upon us with many more on the way. Opportunities to develop skills, as well as refine and share those images are plentiful, and not just within the club. Share with your family, friends, neighbors. Let them know of your love for photography and be open to critiques. Let your photo life start all over again, as F. Scott Fitzgerald (sort of) suggested.

Throughout this issue of The Viewfinder, our award-winning newsletter (thank you Warren!), you will find information about upcoming programs and events, as well as a recap of our recent field trip and many other informative and tantalizing notices. Be sure to read the entire issue.

Historical Note: This month in 1853, the Crimean War began, the first war observed up close by photographers and reporters. An unknown nurse, Florence Nightingale, became a household name; and Tennyson wrote "The Charge of the Light Brigade." Sadly, there has been no shortage of wars since. Still, photojournalism in all its forms can and does shed light on all aspects of the human condition. May it always be so. --Steve (Continued on page 3)

Calendar

October 5	Field Trip	Rock Creek Cemetery
October 7	Competition	Theme: Open
October 14	Photo Talk	The Latest News in Photography
October 21	Program Meeting	Martin Culpepper: Owls (Zoom)
October 28	How-To Meeting	Phil Atiyeh: Fireworks Creativity(Zoom)

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Articles for The Viewfinder

THE VIEWFINDER is distributed via e-mail early in the month. Contributions of articles of interest to photographers are welcomed.

The deadline for submitting articles and images is the 20th day of the month before publication. For example, a submission deadline for the October Viewfinder would be September 20.

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 1920 pixels in its greatest dimension.

Membership Rates

Individual	\$40.00
Family	\$55.00
Student	\$20.00

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 7:00. Visitors are always welcome.

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.



Presidents' Notes - continued from page 1

by Roz Kleffman and Stefan Kaben, Co-Presidents

Being Co-President has many advantages. One is that Steve does all the work and I just look pretty. Check out the MPA photo competition (MPA info in this VF, page 8). Open now for entries. You will get two entries free just for being a B-CCC member. Please pay your dues! The club code is BCCC. There is a password too but I cannot publicize it because it is only for club members. Pay your dues! I will give it to folks Monday night or if you email me.

There are lots of great activities planned for this club year. Take advantage of the terrific field trips, Wednesday mentoring group, and other learning opportunities. Shout out to Beth Fabey for all her hard work with the mentoring group and Leslie and Vince for field trips too! Kudos to Warren Wilson for his **WIN** in the PSA NEWSLETTER contest. Taking an HM is not an easy thing in the PSA world. PSA awards points for

editing, interesting articles, and other photo things. Please keep submitting your articles so that Warren can get a 1st place next year.

Get-well wishes to Clarence Carvell. He had some heart problems recently. Speedy recovery my friend. Condolences to Bill Collins at the loss of his brother, Frank. Safe travels to TN. Please let me know any information about our club members so we can pass it on with thoughts and prayers.

This club is only as strong as our members. Please take the time to volunteer to do something in the club. On-the-job training is available. Help make this club the best in the area. --Roz

Competition Corner

November 11 'Reflections' Competition Judge: Sharon Thorpe

submitted by Sharon Thorpe, November Competition Judge

Sharon Thorpe is a designer and photographer from Baltimore, Maryland. Trained as a visual artist, she has enjoyed an accomplished career. She led a talented graphics team for over 30 years at the Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County, Maryland. As adjunct faculty, she instructed classes in design, typography, and illustration in the University of Maryland, College Park's Graphic Design program. Sharon's freelance clients have included National Geographic World Magazine, National Wildlife Federation, and the DC Environmental Film Festival.

Sharon often works collaboratively with talented illustrators, photographers, and writers. Her work on book and magazine projects has given her an opportunity to tell stories and share information. She appreciates creativity, discipline, humor, craft, and a fresh eye.

From her home on Maryland's Eastern Shore, much of her work chronicles the unique quality of life and the natural beauty of the area and life on the water. Sharon also explores the genres of portrait, street and industrial photography. Her images are playful, and creative, and her love for travel and seeing people in new ways makes its way into many of her images.

Sharon credits her passion for photography to her father, Russell Davis, a perpetually curious learner and lover of photography.

Learn more at www.sharonthorpecreative.com. Follow Sharon on Instagram at [@sharonthorpe](https://www.instagram.com/sharonthorpe).

Competition Corner

November 11 'Reflections' Competition

by Charles Jemmott, Competition VP

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.

Please note: our November competition will be held Monday November 11, the second Monday in November. The church will be closed Nov 4 in preparation for the election on Nov 5, so we have delayed the competition by one week.

Program Meeting - October 21 (Zoom only)

Martin Culpepper - Photographing Owls: How to find and ethically photograph them

by Bruce Edwards, Programs VP



Owls are one of the most mysterious and sought after subjects for both birders and wildlife photographers alike. Their often nocturnal and secretive nature makes them harder to

locate and photograph than almost any other group of avian subjects. This program will be focused on how you can effectively and ethically photograph these wonderful animals and produce high-quality

photographs of them, along with how to find some specific species to get you started.

Martin writes in his Bio: "My name is Martin Culpepper. I am a 21 year old photographer based in northern Massachusetts who specializes in photographing wildlife. I have photographed wildlife all over North America and I have been shooting for ten years."

More of his work can be viewed on his website: www.pepperwildlife.com. His Instagram handle is [@martinz.photos](https://www.instagram.com/martinz.photos).

Upcoming Events: Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions (MAPV) Conference

News about non-club related photographic events

by Beth Fabey

In case you don't get MAPV info, here are a few links for their upcoming conference. The dates are November 2-3, 2024. The location is Manassas, VA.

Conference information:

https://midatlanticphotovisions.org/mapv-back-in-person-at-the-hylton-center-november-2-3-2024/?mc_cid=a0c3b8ab3a&mc_eid=a487405562

Link to sign up for speakers and hands-on workshops:

<https://midatlanticphotovisions.ticketspice.com/mid-atlantic-photo-visions-2024-ticket-page>



Image by Roz Kleffman at the Budds Creek Motocross. See pages 9-11 for more.

How-To Meeting - October 28

Phil Atiyeh - Fireworks Creativity: Capturing and Creating Works of Art

by Karen Smale, VP How-To



Our speaker for October is Phil Atiyeh. He recently gave an outstanding presentation to the MPA about creating colorful abstract works of art. This program might be in the same vein but this time, it is all about fireworks. It's hard to find someone who doesn't like

a good fireworks show. The colors, shapes and bursts of streaking light are beautiful...and fleeting. Now you see them, now you don't. But as photographers, not only are we able to capture them, but we're able to view them as they've never been seen. With an open shutter collecting multiple bursts, the image on your screen is unlike anything the casual observer saw.

This program is divided into two parts: 1) learning how to capture sharp, properly exposed images, and 2) a variety of creative techniques and effects to generate beautiful works of art. **This program is on October 28 and will be on Zoom.**

Phil's past life in helping companies develop and launch new products has offered a natural path into photography where similar technical and aesthetic

elements must work together. While he's always had an interest in photography, it wasn't until he left the workforce in 2019 (and joined the 'playforce'), that he accelerated and expanded his photography with greater passion.

Phil has received over 100 awards in his five years with the New Haven Camera Club as well as merit awards from various photography associations. He has conducted numerous presentations for camera clubs and conferences. His work has been displayed at the Small Stones Festival of the Arts in Grafton, MA, the Milford Arts Council in CT and Spectrum Art Gallery in Centerbrook, CT. His Judges Choice image of five inquisitive alpacas was awarded the cover photo of the *Alpaca Owners Guide* (yes, believe it or not, there's a magazine for this!).

Whether he's designing and crafting wood products, playing the drums with other musicians or capturing and processing images from his camera – it's simply about the drive to create. And photography for Phil has become an incredibly powerful medium for exploiting this passion.



Above photos were taken at a PopUp Photo event, in Frederick--the 10th. National Clustered Spires High Wheel Race--by Stanley Turk.

Member Projects

Trees

by Warren Wilson, Editor

Every image I take has the potential of belonging to a project. Projects are designed to help keep us motivated. And, a small push toward the front door is often all I need to get out of the house.

Trees, as a photo project, have been a favorite of mine for at least 15 years. I think that might be because they're so accessible. I walk out my door and I can be assured that I'll pass by a tree. So why not stand and marvel at its presence, taking a picture or two?

Trees can take on different personalities. They can be soft, serene, yielding. Or they can appear coarse, fierce, tempered. Catching them in the right light can bring home the fact that they are truly photogenic--think line, color, size, depth, shape, and form. Anyway, it's been a fun project and it keeps me busy looking for that "great" shot.

Do you have a project that you'd like to share with the club? If so, send some images along with their story to viewfinder@b-ccc.org



All images this page by Warren Wilson



Photo Exhibits in 2024-25

December Exhibit at Bowie Senior Center

by Mark Laster, Exhibit Coordinator



We have scheduled installation, reception, and take-down dates for B-CCC's December photo exhibit at the Bowie Senior Center.

Installation will take place on Monday, December 2, between 3:00pm-4:30pm. If you will be exhibiting one or more photos, but a work schedule or other necessity will prevent your hanging photos during those hours, let Mark Laster know, to try to arrange an accommodation. The B-CCC monthly Competition meeting starts at 7:00pm that evening, so if you wish to have dinner with other club members before that meeting, we'll head for a restaurant in Bowie after the installation.

On Saturday morning, December 7, a reception with light refreshments will be provided by the Bowie Senior Center. It's scheduled to begin at 10:30am, and to run until 11:30am.

The photo exhibit ends on Tuesday, December 31. We'll take down our pictures that morning between 8:30am and 9:30am. After the pictures are packed into our cars, if there's interest, we can have a snack at a restaurant nearby.

The Bowie Senior Center is at 14900 Health Center Drive, Bowie, MD. Hours of operation have changed recently. It's now open six days a week, with an opening time of 8:30am Mon-Sat, and closing times of 4:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 7:00pm on Wednesday; and 12:30pm on Saturday.

Members of our club who have paid dues for 2024-25 are invited to enter one or more photos in the exhibit at the Bowie Senior Center. Be sure to join/renew your membership ASAP. There's an exhibit total of about 35 photos, depending on frame sizes. Each

photo must be framed, with a horizontal wire on the back to permit hanging it from hooks provided at the Senior Center. Photos entered need not fit a particular theme, but must be suitable for display in a public building. Each photo entered must be available for sale. A small card on each photo will display its price and the photographer's contact information.

If a photo is bought, no commission will be charged by the Senior Center, so all the proceeds will go to the photographer. A sold photo can be delivered to the customer for payment at the Senior Center before or at the end of the exhibit, but a photographer is not allowed to remove a photo from the exhibit before the close of the exhibit without immediately replacing it with another photo hung in the same place.

By exhibiting at the Bowie Senior Center, you are agreeing to hold the Bowie Senior Center, the City of Bowie, the Bowie-Crofton Camera Club and any members thereof, harmless should any harm happen to your photos.

For each photo that you are planning to exhibit, please give Mark Laster the following information by November 1 to provide enough time to create display cards, organize the event, and so on:

- Framed size of your work
- Your name
- Title of your photo
- Price
- Your contact info for the buyer to reach you, i.e., your email address and/or phone number.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Laster at: mark.nmi.laster@gmail.com .

Maryland Photography Alliance

What is MPA?

by Roz Kleffman, Co-President

Maryland Photography Alliance (MPA) is a group of 22 camera clubs in Maryland. This Alliance was formed seven years ago when a group of photographers were meeting in a small hotel. Seven clubs readily agreed to form an Alliance. Each club contributed volunteers and a little financial incentive and the MPA was established. We all agreed that we needed judge certification training, sharing of speakers, photographic education and inter-club competitions. (YES, I was one of those seven folks representing Bowie-Crofton Camera Club involved in the start-up of MPA.) I am happy to report that all goals have been established and work well. Kudos to the executive board of MPA: Steve Sattler, Mary Braman, Mike Washington, Michael Koren, Sandy Nichols, Ron Peiffer, Jim Voglein for many years of service to photography (I might add Steve Bruza, Ed Palaszynski and all the club reps in that group too, plus me.)

MPA is currently sponsoring a photo contest. Open for entries 9/15 thru 10/15/24. There are four categories: Abandoned, Minimalism, Birds, and Shadows or Silhouettes.



You need to be a paid member of B-CCC to enter under our club. BCCC is our club code. Come to a meeting to get the password (or call me). We are not publicizing the password as we want only our members to enter the competition under B-CCC.

Other things MPA does is educational events:

1. Odyssey of Light. That is fantastic! This year, the one day seminar will be on 4/13/25 at the James Rouse Theater, Columbia, Maryland. More details to come in early 2025.
2. There are monthly webinars and podcasts, too.
3. Upcoming Freight Train workshop 10/19 THRU 10/20.

Being part of the MDphoto Alliance helps our club too. The club can receive income from any tickets sold for Odyssey or other educational activities. Last year, Bowie-Crofton Camera Club made \$75.

Check out the website for a lot of things happening at www.MDphotoalliance.org



Above photos were taken at a PopUp Photo event, Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, by Warren Wilson.

Photos from September Field Trip
Budds Creek Motocross



*First 3 images by Javia Walters;
Last 2 by Roz Kleffman*

Photos From March Field Trip, continued
Budds Creek Motocross



All images this page by Bruce Goodman

Photos From March Field Trip, continued

Budds Creek Motocross



*Top 4 images by Charles Jemmott;
Bottom 2 by Roz Kleffman*

The Bowie-Crofton Camera Club

Club Year 2024-2025 Schedule of Events



All meetings begin at 7:00 in All Saints Lutheran Church at the corner of Route 301 South and Mt. Oak Road in Bowie, Maryland, or on-line (Zoom).

MEETING LOCATION KEY: (IP)-IN-PERSON ONLY; (H)-IN-PERSON AND ZOOM; (Z)-ZOOM ONLY.

SEPTEMBER 2024

- 9 Kick-Off Meeting
- 14 Field Trip - Budd's Creek Motocross Park
- 16 Program - Caleb Hoover: Artistic Wildlife Photography
- 23 How-To - K. Smale, V. Ferrari, B. Goodman, B. Fabey: From Flat to Fabulous (H)
- 30 Field Trips - Stanley Turk: Field Trips Presentation

OCTOBER

- 5 Field Trip - Rock Creek Cemetery
- 7 Competition - Theme: Open
Judge: Ron Peiffer (H)
- 14 Photo Talk - The Latest News in Photography (IP)
- 21 Program - Martin Culpepper: Owls (Z)
- 28 How-To - Phil Atiyeh: Fireworks Creativity (Z)

NOVEMBER

- 4 No Meeting - Due to election
- 11 Competition - Theme: Reflections
Judge: Sharon Thorpe (H)
- 16 Field Trip - Tanger Outlet, Small Business Market, National Harbor
- 18 Program - Soren Goldsmith: The Untold Story of Massachusetts Urban Wildlife (Z)
- 25 How-To - Steve Buchanan: Food Photography (Z)

DECEMBER

- 2 Competition - Theme: Doorways
Judge: Robert Leanard (H)
- 9 Photo Talk - TBD (IP)
- 14/15 Field Trip - U.S. Botanic Gardens
- 16 Program - Josh Hague: Photography in the Blue Hour
- 23/30 No Meeting

JANUARY 2025

- 6 Competition - Theme: Dutch Angles
Judge: Mark Franco (H)
- 11 Field Trip - Franciscan Monastery
- 13 Photo Talk - TBD (IP)
- 20 Program - TBD
- 27 How-To - Freya Sutton: Composites/Digital Art (TBD)

FEBRUARY

- 3 Competition – Theme: Travel
Judge: Don Becker (H)
- 10 Photo Talk - TBD (IP)
- 15 Field Trip - Chesapeake Fire & Ice Festival, Easton (Tentative)
- 17 Program - TBD
- 24 How-To - Dawn Beachy: Making Metal Prints (H)

MARCH

- 3 Competition – Theme: Diptych Maximalism/Minimalism
Judge: Matt Mahlsted (H)
- 10 Photo Talk - TBD (IP)
- 17 Program - TBD
- 22 Field Trip - Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
- 24 How-To - Hands-on Photo Session (IP)
- 31 No Meeting

APRIL

- 7 Competition – Theme: Nature
Judge: Ed Palaszynski (H)
- 12 Field Trip - Cherry Blossom Parade Prep
- 14 Photo Talk - TBD (IP)
- 21 Program - Annual Slideshow Presentation
- 27 Field Trip - Hancock's Resolution Plowing
- 28 How-To - Art Vidrine: Fine Art Photography Approaches (H)

MAY

- 5 Competition - Theme: Open
Judge: Paul Biederman (H)
- 12 Photo Talk - TBD (IP)
- 17-18 Field Trip - Fallingwater and surrounding area, PA
- 19 Program - TBD

JUNE

- 2 End of Year Awards
- 9 Executive Board Meeting

Subject matter, speakers, and judges are subject to change. When possible, changes will be posted on the club website (www.b-ccc.org).

The B-CCC Mentoring Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month, via Zoom.

Revise 10/2024

Parting Shot

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

viewfinder@b-ccc.org.

Some little-known history in Riverdale, Maryland, involves the production, sale, and flying of a low-cost, two-seater airplane called the Ercoupe. Henry Berliner founded the Engineering and Research Corporation (ERCO) and, in 1937, purchased 50 acres of land just south of the College Park Airport. There, he built the large ERCO factory that produced thousands Ercoupe airplanes from 1945 to 1952. The abandoned factory structures were a favorite photo destination for me from the mid-1990s until it was demolished in 2014, making way for new developments like condos and Whole Foods. I have many favorite images from ERCO and might submit one to the MPA's "Abandoned" contest category, as mentioned on page 8 in this issue. This image, though, is for your enjoyment.

---Stefan Kaben



The Viewfinder

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