



Painted Pony was taken by Stanley Turk on a club field trip to Glen Echo Park.



THE VIEWFINDER

Presidents' Comments

"Sunshine and spring bring out the best in everyone."~Kenny Chesney

"Spring is the time of plans and projects."~Leo Tolstoy

by Roz Kleffman and Stefan Kaben, Co-Presidents

Ahhhhhhh! Take a deep breath. Can you taste it? Spring is here! Buds, blooms, birds, and Nature's annual renewal and refurbishment.

And a great time to grab your camera, head outside, and take a stroll. Just to see what you can see. Embrace serendipity. And maybe even keep our competition themes in mind for next year. Night. In detail (not necessarily macro). The art of imperfection (Wabi-sabi). Travel. A softer focus (Pictorialism). Nature. And anything and everything else (Open).

People are always interesting so maybe stroll through a park, or go downtown to the monuments, or walk by stores. After all, people are out at night, they have details about them, nobody is perfect, and

they are ripe for artistic treatment. As is so much else in this world.

You can stroll around the block or make an excursion. Perhaps to the Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/>), which was founded in this month of April back in 1800 and houses more than 12.5 million photographs. Try to fit that in your closet! Wherever you find yourself, a richness of subject matter is available for you and your camera. Buildings and parts of buildings, gardens and plants and parts of gardens and plants, cars and parts of cars, landscapes or cityscapes and parts thereof. You get the idea. If the weather doesn't cooperate, get creative and playful at home.

Continued on page 3

Calendar

April 7	Competition	Theme: Nature
April 12	Field Trip	Cherry Blossom Parade, D.C.
April 14	Photo Talk	TBD
April 21	Slideshow	Annual Slideshow Presentation
Postponed	Hancock's Plowing	Rescheduled to May 4
April 28	How-To	Art Vidrine: Fine Art Approaches

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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.

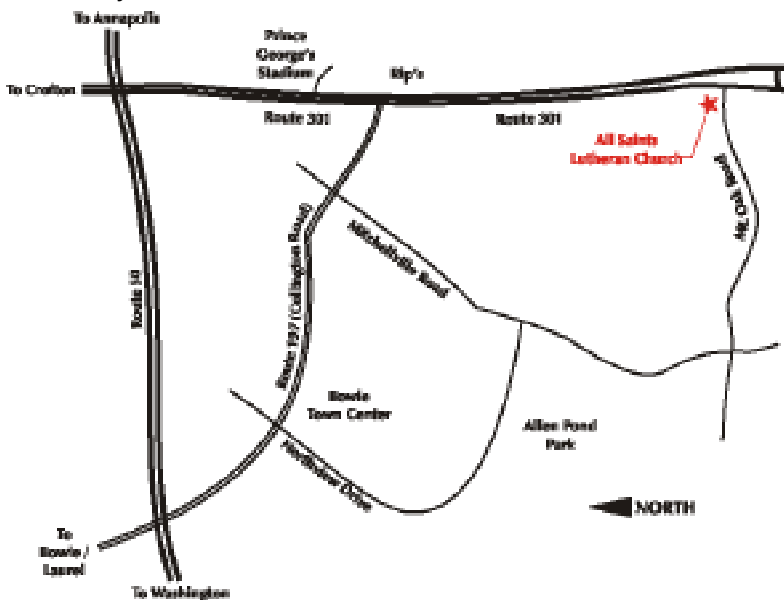
The deadline for submitting articles is the second Monday of the month prior to publication (ie, articles submitted in early October will be published in the November newsletter).

Membership Rates

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

Meeting Nights

The Bowie-Crofton Camera Club meets the first through fourth Monday nights of each month September through May, either in-person or by Zoom, in the Fellowship Hall of the All Saints Lutheran Church at US 301 and Mt. Oak Road in Bowie. Check location first. Meetings begin at 7:00. 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 Roz Kleffman and Stefan Kaben, Co-Presidents

Rain or shine, an excellent outdoor excursion awaits you with the Cherry Blossom Parade. Our club is taking one of our field trips to the parade on April 12th, which you can read all about on page 11. Other club activities this month include our in-person Photo Talk on April 14; our everyone-can-participate Annual Slide Show on April 21; and a terrific fine-art How-To session on April 28. **Note that the field trip for Hancock's Resolution Plowing has been changed from April 27 to May 4.**

The Maryland Photo Alliance's Odyssey of Light will take place on Sunday, April 13, at the Jim Rouse Theater in Columbia, Maryland. This is a can't-miss event with two exceptional speakers: Jodi Cobb, a terrific storyteller who has been a staff photographer at National Geographic for more than 40 years, and has won a plethora of awards including White House Photographer of the Year; and Patrick Smith of Getty Images, who several times has been named 'Sports Photographer of the Year' and will share his many insights and experiences garnered from years of exploring the worldwide world of sports. There is still a little time to sign up before the 13th (with our club discount code) at <https://www.mdphotoalliance.org/odyssey-of-light-2025>.

The end of our club year is fast approaching. We urge you to do at least two things. First, if you have

competition awards (1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM), be sure to move your online digital winners to the end-of-year competition, slated for 5/19/2025. And bring (or have a friend bring) your winning prints to an in-person meeting so they can also be part of the end-of-year competition.

Second, be a more active club member by volunteering a bit of your time and talent. Suggest speakers to Bruce Edwards for next year's programs, or to Karen Smale for the How-To sessions. Think of a field trip you'd like to help with. Come early to in-person meetings and help set things up (we open the church at 6:30pm for our 7 o'clock meetings). Consult with Charles Jemmott about how best to help him with all the work associated with competitions. Perhaps you are knowledgeable about IT and could assist with membership (Bill Bailey) or the club's website (Bev Shomo) or hybrid zooming. Maybe offer to drive someone else to a meeting or a field trip. There are so many ways to help your club. What works for you? We are always available for brainstorming; take advantage of us.

And by all means, enjoy Spring!



Lunch after Glen Echo Park Field Trip--See more photos throughout this issue.

Competition Corner

March 3 “Diptych Maximalism/Minimalism” Competition Results

by Charles Jemmott, VP Competition

Matthew Mahlsted was our judge; we submitted 70 images (65 Advanced, 5 Novice: 4 Digital, 1 MCP, all judged with the Advanced images) for Matthew to review.

The Diptych requirement of this month’s theme put the creative powers of our members and the analytical skills of our judge to the test. I’m delighted to report that both our members and the judge were more than up to the challenge!

Matthew gave excellent feedback to the members for each entry and encouraged the club continue pushing their creative skills to the limit!

One of the many highlights of the evening was Javia Walters receiving Honorable in the Advanced Color Print Competition for “The Point”, congratulations Javia!

Congratulations to all the winners, and good luck to all in April’s Nature competition; (please enter prints)!

May 5 Competition Judge

The judge for our May “Open” competition will be Mike Thomas

by Charles Jemmott, VP Competition

May’s Theme - Open: Any subject, anytime, anywhere

Paul Biederman was originally scheduled to judge the May competition, but due to a scheduling conflict Mike Thomas will be our judge in May.

Per Mike:

“I Started photography in 1979 using my father’s Nikkormat SLR. I still have that camera. He also taught me how to develop and process film. After years in a darkroom, switched to digital in 2006 and recently I switched from Nikon to Olympus micro four thirds.

While my favorite subjects are wildlife, I like to shoot just about anything. Black and White prints are my favorite.

I have BS and an MS in Computer Science which has served me well in the transition from film to digital using Photoshop and Lightroom.

In 2018 I was awarded Master Photographer by the Bowie Crofton Camera Club. I have also been awarded Master of Monochrome Prints, Color Prints, and Digital in the Arundel Camera Club.

Professionally I work in the cybersecurity industry. I retired from the US Department of Defense in 2020 and currently work for Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Lincoln Laboratory.

You can find some of my images at <https://mikethomas.photos/blog>”



Nature's Origami, HM Advanced Digital, Bruce Goodman



Power to the People, HM Advanced Digital, Stefan Kaben

More Competition Photos on pages 5-7

Competition Corner

March 3 Competition Results

Competition Standings Following the March Competition

Advanced Color Prints

Jin-chung Hsu 24
 William (Bill) Bailey. . .17
 Karen Smale. 16
 Stanley Turk. 13

Novice Color Prints

Javia Walters. 8
 Sally Patton. 2

Advanced Digital

Bruce Goodman. . . . 44
 Karen Smale. 30
 Carmella Doty. 27
 Kim Kowalewski. . . . 25

Novice Digital

Javia Walters 38
 Sharon Ruhly. 34
 John Peyman. 14
 Beverly Shomo 13

Advanced Monochrome

Karen Smale. 24
 Stanley Turk. 16
 William (Bill) Bailey .16
 Jin-chung Hsu. 12

Novice Monochrome

Javia Walters. 2

Novice Digital (0 Entries)

Novice Monochrome Prints (0 Entries)

Novice Color Prints (1 Entry)

1st The Point Javia Walters



The Point, HM Novice Color Prints, Javia Walters

Advanced Digital (36 Entries)

1st I Found A Landing Space. Glenn E. Thompson
 2nd 7-Persistence. William (Bill) Bailey
 3rd Luxor Balloons Diptych 2 Karen Smale
 HM Tangled Left and a Thread Connecting. Roz Kleffman
 HM Chesapeake Moon. . . . Vincent Ferrari
 HM St. Anne’s Cemetery . . . Kim Kowalewski
 HM I Will Do the Crowing. . . Warren E. Wilson
 HM Power to the People. . . . Stefan Kaben
 HM The Bouquet and Cascading Petal. Roz Kleffman
 HM Nature’s Origami. Bruce Goodman

Advanced Monochrome Prints (13 Entries)

1st Agave Diptych Stefan Kaben
 2nd Winter on the Water. . . . Stefan Kaben
 3rd A Few Snow Geese. Bill Collins

Advanced Color Prints (16 Entries)

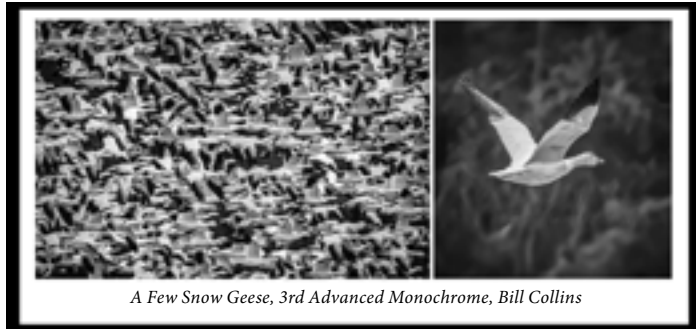
1st Luminaries. Vincent Ferrari
 2nd Water Birds. Jin-chung Hsu
 3rd Trash to Treasure. Stefan Kaben



Chesapeake Moon, HM Advanced Digital, Vincent Ferrari

Competition Corner

March 3 Competition Results, continued



A Few Snow Geese, 3rd Advanced Monochrome, Bill Collins



Water Birds, 2nd Advanced Color Prints, Jin-chung Hsu



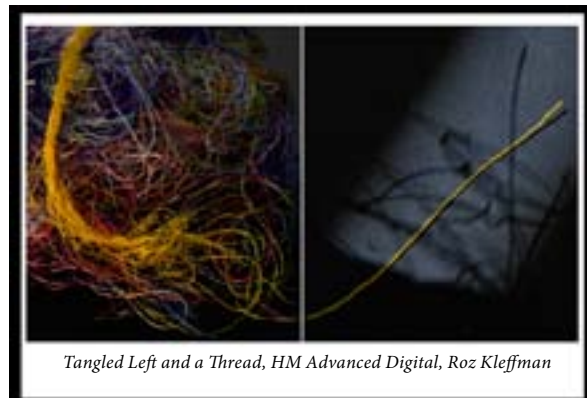
Luminaries, 1st Advanced Color Prints, Vincent Ferrari



I Will Do the Crowing, HM Advanced Digital, Warren E. Wilson



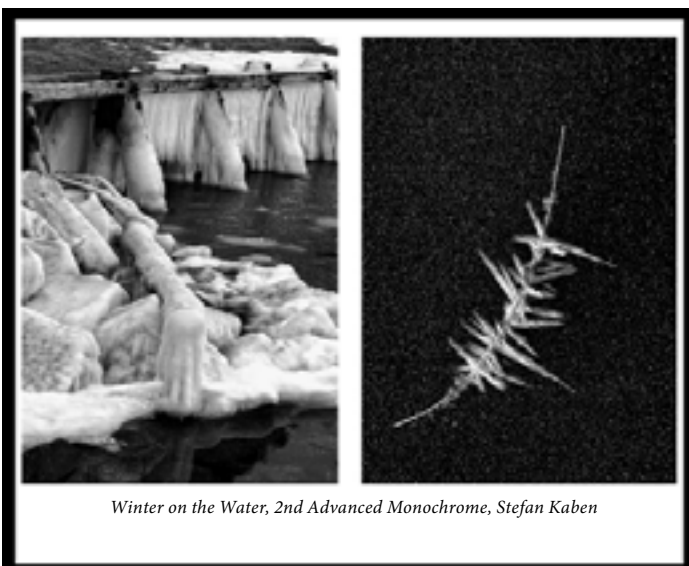
Agave Diptych, 1st Advanced Monochrome, Stefan Kaben



Tangled Left and a Thread, HM Advanced Digital, Roz Kleffman

Competition Corner

March 3 Competition Results, continued



B-CCC Annual Slideshow Presentation

April 21-In-person and YouTube

by Vincent Ferrari

Get ready! Our annual Slideshow Presentation will be on Monday, April 21, at the regular meeting time. For the best viewing, and to discuss the shows with their makers, it is recommended that you come in person to

the meeting. However, for those who can't come, the entire show will be available on YouTube as well.

We have some terrific, unique, and very entertaining shows this year, so don't miss out!

April 28 How-To (Hybrid)

Fine Art Photography with Art Vidrine

by Karen Smale, VP How-To

Our April 28th How To presentation will be hybrid. Our speaker is Art Vidrine, a multimedia artist, art critic, and Associate Professor of Art at Bowie State University whose work focuses on the ways in which abstraction, perception, and agency structure our lives.

His art often embodies systems of abstraction to draw attention to what gets left out or destroyed by reductive thinking. It emphasizes perception's role in making sense of the world while influencing our decision making and actions. It thematizes agency to prompt reflection on our possible responses and their consequences within a given situation.

Recently, his work has explored the transition in Eastern Europe from a controlling Communist regime to a freer, more democratic and capitalist society, as well as documenting the competing values and exercises in political agency in America.

He received a BA in Comparative Literature from the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill and a MFA

in Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts (New York). He has exhibited in a variety of venues such as the California Conference for the Advancement of Ceramic Art, FUSE's 3rd Thursdays in Allentown (PA), Miami Project (during Art Basel Miami), NIAD (CA), Sideshow Gallery (NY), Target Gallery (VA), Bowie State University Gallery of Art (MD), and a yearlong installation at the San Francisco Zoo.

In his presentation on Fine Art Photography, Vidrine will discuss his two primary approaches to photography: fine art documentary and experimental/conceptual photography. While he will show a few images from some of his recent fine art documentary projects, he will spend most of his time discussing experimental and conceptual approaches to photography that explore glitches, systematic approaches, installation art, and other lens-based practices.

This will be the final How-To presentation for this Club Year.



Stefan Kaben : Knick-knacks (Glen Echo Park)



Stefan Kaben: Stoned View
(Glen Echo Park)

Mentoring Group

Schedule for remainder of club season (April 2 and May 7)

by Beth Fabey

I will open the Mentoring Group Zoom meeting at 6:30 p.m. to give folks the opportunity to ask questions on all things photography or club related.

The formal meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom code is the same as our Monday night Zoom meetings.

April 2: Image Critiques

I will lead off with one of my photos asking for input as to what I did wrong in taking the shot, what I should have done, and then showing how I turned it into a winning image by thinking outside of the box.

Please have several images readily available to screen share on your computer/cell phone about which you would like to hear some editing ideas. These do NOT have to be finished photos--they can be straight from the camera or cell phone.

Consider the competition themes for next year when choosing your photos to be critiqued. (See page 5 of the March *Viewfinder* for next year's themes.) Or

choose any favorite photos about which you would like to hear some post-processing ideas. Different perspectives can yield surprising results--be bold!

May 7: Introduction to Photoshop by Karen Smale

Thank you, Karen!

If you have specific questions or requests about Photoshop, please let me know by April 2 and I will compile a list to send to Karen.

Send requests by April 2 to: nonnie.fabey@gmail.com

These will be the last two Mentoring Group meetings until October.

Please be thinking of what direction you would like this group to go in for next club year. What has been the most helpful for you/what changes would you like to see for next year? Please send your ideas for 2025-2026 Mentoring Group direction by April 2 to: nonnie.fabey@gmail.com

Thanks!

Out-and-About

Leon Smith *Chincoteague Sunrise*

by Beth Fabey

Congratulations to Leon Smith who just got word that he has sold a second copy of his photo, *Chincoteague Sunrise*, at the joint exhibit presently being held at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home by the Bowie-Crofton Camera Club and the Coastal Camera Club Southern Maryland Special Interest Group/St. Mary's County Camera Club.

One photo was purchased by an administrator at the Veterans Home and a second copy by one of the residents.

Leon is an active member of both clubs who participates in CCC competitions, runs an image critique group for the SOMD SIG, and offers highly detailed tutorials on a wide variety of subjects for the B-CCC Mentoring Group, his most recent of which was on interpreting histograms and understanding F-stops.

Congratulations again, Leon!

Out-and-About

Stanley Turk

by Warren Wilson, Editor



Huntington Ingalls Industry selected Stanley Turk as the employee to be profiled for the month of February. Stanley was honored for

accomplishments on-and-off the job. His dedication in both work and photography help keep him motivated: "My work at the USPS benefits society. My photography documents my involvement in society."

Exhibits: Reception Details

New Deal Cafe on April 6

by Mark Laster

The reception for the B-CCC ongoing exhibit will take place at the New Deal Cafe on Sunday afternoon, April 6, from 1:00 to 3:00. The exhibit comprises 22 works by 12 members of the Bowie-Crofton Camera Club.

Light refreshments will be served.

Viewing Bin

For just the 2 hours of the reception, there will be a viewing bin available for exhibitors. Prints that are unframed, but matted and mounted and covered by a protective cover can be placed in the bin. On each

protective cover should appear: Title and Price of the work enclosed in the cover, Photographer's name and Contact information. And optionally some biographic information about the photographer. At the end of the reception, photographers should remove any of their pictures from the display bin.

The address is 113 Centerway, Greenbelt, 20770.

If there are questions, send them to mark.nmi.laster@gmail.com

Photographic Society of America (PSA)

Changes

by Denise Hill

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is one of the largest non-profit organizations for photographers with members in over 60 countries.

They are now psaphotoworldwide.org! While all content remains the same, the domain for links has changed. Please update any bookmarks to "psaphotoworldwide.org".

For example, if you bookmarked <https://psa-photo.org/page/about> change it to <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/about>.

PSA is planning other exciting changes in addition to the competitions and educational opportunities including Online Courses, Webinars, Mentors, Consultants, and Study Groups that they currently offer.

Upcoming Events

Maryland Professional Photographers Association (PPA) Convention, Ellicott City, MD.

by Beth Fabey

The dates are April 24-26, 2025. There is a separate Early Bird registration fee for nonmembers. The Early Bird offers ends on April 1.

The conference is free to members of PPA.

Address is 8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City, MD.

For more information: <https://www.mdppa.org/2025Cony>

April 12 Field Trip

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, documentation 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 last group leaves staging area at 11:45 AM.

Contact: stanley.turk@verizon.net

Photos from March Field Trip

Glen Echo Park, Maryland



Charles Jemmott: Glass Blowing



Charles Jemmott: Welcome



Charles Jemmott: Wurlitzer



Charles Jemmott: Bared Fangs

Photos from March Field Trip, continued
Glen Echo Park, Maryland



Glenn Thompson: Glen Echo Park



Andy Gray: Carousel



Javia Walters: Merry-Go-Round



Javia Walters: Rolling the Scroll



Javia Walters: Glen Echo Carousel



Andy Gray: Glen Echo

Photos from March Field Trip, continued
Glen Echo Park, Maryland



Kim Kowalewski: Carousel



Kim Kowalewski: Wurlitzer



Stanley Turk: Kim



Stanley Turk: Carousel Port View



Stanley Turk: Bridge



Stefan Kaben: Art Show Inside

Parting Shot

This month's Parting Shot is from Jin-chung Hsu. If you would like to have your image and story presented here, send to:

viewfinder@b-ccc.org

Sunset over the Sahara

A breeze, kicks up a golden veil in Erg Chebbi,
in the air, murmurs softly in Berber,
a sigh of solitude. As the sun sets yonder
the sand dunes far, far over the Atlas.
Behold, the Abendrot, in the silence
of awe, of worship and prayer of maghrib.
A many caravan of camels bring
homeward our cousins of Gobi descent!

---Text and Photo by JC Hsu, 2022



The Viewfinder

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NEWSLETTER CATEGORY

