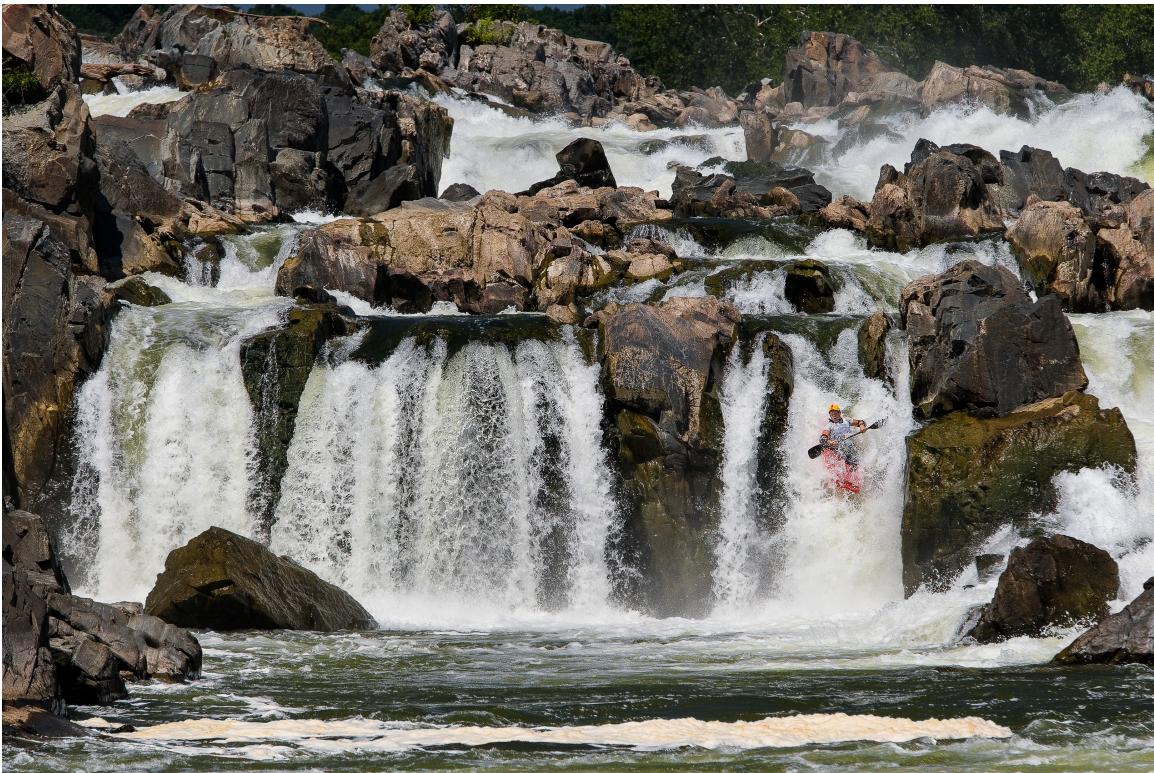


The Lens and Eye



Volume 57 Number 1 | September 2021 | Editor: Cherry Wyman | Website: www.nbccmd.org



Kayaker Running Fingers at Great Falls © Roy Sewall

- published in the Virginia Conservation Network's 2022 book, "Common Ground"

For more member news, see page 8.

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Calendar

All events will be held remotely. Zoom links will be sent by GordieGram.

Events start at 7:30 p.m. unless noted.

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Aug. 29 | Deadline, Competition Submissions |
| Sept. 1 | Competition: Looking Up |
| Sept. 8 | Board Meeting |
| Sept. 15 | No meeting - Yom Kippur |
| Sept. 22 | Program - iPhone Photography Grows Up |
| Sept. 29 | Program: Photo Panel Critique |

The Lens and Eye Wins Three PSA Awards

We are happy to announce that in the Large Clubs division of the Photographic Society of America's 2021 PSA Newsletter Contest, *The Lens & Eye*:

- tied for third place,
- was awarded "Best Banner," and
- won "Best Technical Article – Best Opinion Article" for "[Photographing Other People's Art](#)" by Alan Sislen

Giving credit where it is due, the newsletter has always been a team effort. Committee chairs and other members do the writing. Judy Switt, Steve Lapidus, and John Willis provided the winning images, scores, and comments. Judy and Toni Robinson have for a few years proofread every single word, number, and space of every issue and have often caught many errors. Without their vigilance, the newsletter would be third-rate. The banner was created by Roy Sewall and Judy Switt. Alan Sislen stepped up and

September Competition Theme: Looking Up

Turn your camera upwards and capture the world from a different perspective. It can be a ceiling, flowers from the ground level, buildings, trees or anything that requires your camera to look upwards. (Must be taken on or after September 1, 2018, extended due to Covid)

If you are competing in the **electronic** category or submitting to Members Showcase, please send your images as email attachments to nbccmdEcomp@gmail.com **no later than 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 29.**

If you are competing in the **print** category, please send your images as email attachments to nbccmdPcomp@gmail.com **no later than 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 29.**

contributed his excellent article when our club updated our competition rules. John Allender and Shelley Price publish the newsletter promptly on our new website. Let's give all of them a big hand!

- *Cherry Wyman, Editor*

*The issue that won the awards:
March 2021*



September 1 Competition Judge: Don Becker



Photos © Don Becker

Don Becker has been involved with photography for over 50 years, well before the advent of digital photography. His experience includes teaching photography at the Washington School of Photography for over 35 years, including in their Maryland state-accredited Certificate Program in Professional Photography, until their demise in 2016. He photographed the Washington Ballet for 15 years, the Washington Wizards Dance Team for several years, and worked with a local advertising agency on a variety of projects, including photographing Miss Universe and Colonel Sanders. He was a member of the Silver Spring Camera Club for more than 40 years and was a recipient of one of their early star awards for photographic excellence. He has presented programs and judged for many local camera clubs and organizations, including the NBCC.

His current interests include teaching monthly five-hour studio workshops on



dynamic lighting and creative imaging for portraiture, fashion, beauty, and artistic ballet photography. He brings selected models and dancers into the studio for these workshops, and also suggests useful techniques for enhancing these images with Photoshop and Lightroom/Adobe Camera Raw. See some examples of his recent work [here](#).

September 22 Program: iPhone Photography Grows Up with Sue Bloom

Susan Ruddick Bloom, digital fine art photographer, joins us on September 22 for a presentation titled, "iPhone Photography Grows Up." Sue will explore the artistic and creative possibilities of using the camera you always have with you—the one on your cell phone! Trained in drawing, painting, and photography, Sue has embraced the possibilities of digital media from its inception and iPhone photography specifically in the last several years.

An artist her entire life, she started classes at age five at the Maryland Institute College of Art. She went on to get her BFA and MFA degrees there. Her art career has taken her from courtroom illustration for newspaper and television, to art commissions, to teaching photo workshops in the U.S. and abroad, and to 34 years of being a professor and department chair at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland.

Now retired from McDaniel, Sue keeps up a busy schedule making and exhibiting her art and sharing her techniques with others through workshops at several institutions including Common Ground, Glen Echo National Park for the Arts, Maine Media Workshops, and Santa Fe Workshops.



Spring Still Life © Sue Bloom

Traveling is high on Sue's to-do list and she often heads up trips abroad for friends and alumni. She also teaches photo workshops at various sites throughout the U.S. Watch her web site (www.suebloom.com) for upcoming trips and classes.

She is the author of three books for Focal Press and is considered a pioneer in the field of digital fine art photography. She is especially known, throughout the world, for her creative approaches and techniques in the areas of Digital Collage and Digital Painting. Sue also writes for photo magazines in the U.S., Canada and Australia, and lectures throughout the mid-Atlantic.

September 29 Program: Panel Photo Critique

Our first internal program is a great opportunity for members new to the club, those not competing, or anyone wanting feedback on their photographs. Three of our advanced photographers who typically judge outside our club – Evelyn Jacob, Jean-Pierre Plé, and Cynthia Keith - will review and comment on up to four of your electronic images on Wednesday, September 29.

The panelists will take turns as the primary critic of each projected image; other panelists may add comments if they have a different opinion. A timekeeper will help the panelists stay on pace so that they complete a thoughtful analysis and commentary on as many images as possible. In previous years, around 20 members submitted images and panelists typically completed three rounds of photos.

The critique is an excellent opportunity for you to get quality feedback on your photographs. There are no awards – just actionable advice from some of our top experts. Names will not be displayed, and you may choose to remain anonymous. But, to maximize everyone's takeaway, we encourage you to speak up if the panel has questions or if you need clarification on their recommendations.

Please follow these guidelines in submitting your work:

- Submit up to 4 electronic images in order of priority. The panel will critique all #1s first, then proceed with #2s, then #3s, etc., until we either finish them all or run out of time.
- Images must be jpgs with maximum dimensions of 1920 x 1200 pixels (width x height). The filename convention is: Priority Number-Your Name.jpg. For example: 1-John Smith.jpg, 2-John Smith.jpg, etc.
- There is no time restriction on when the image was taken and there is no required theme.
- Each image will be critiqued on its own merits, so there is no distinction between novice, intermediate, and advanced members.

Submissions will be accepted beginning Wednesday, September 15; the deadline is 7:30 p.m., **Sunday, September 26**. Submit up to 4 of your photographs as attachments in a single email (no substitution or late additions, please) to: nbccmdprog@gmail.com. Receipt of your images will be confirmed by personal email. Make sure to follow up if you do not receive a confirmation email. If you have questions please contact Toni Robinson at nbccmdprog@gmail.com

- Toni Robinson, Programs Committee



Splinters from the Board

Over the summer, there has been a great deal of effort put forward in planning for the upcoming year. Our programs and judges for competitions for most of this year are already in place, which will give us a wonderful diversity of inspiring activities.

As part of the planning process, the board has been closely monitoring the resurgent COVID 19 situation and has assessed the implications of Montgomery County's Mask Mandate. In a separate GordieGram, it was announced that the board has decided to defer our return to in-person meetings until the mask mandate is lifted. This was a difficult decision, however keeping everyone safe has to be the priority. When we resume in-person meetings, we will request that all attendees be fully vaccinated. The driving concern of these decisions is for the safety of all people in the meetings including members, guests, judges, and speakers.

On a more uplifting note, over the summer an anonymous donor came forward who made an exceedingly generous offer to our club that would build our community and provide opportunities to improve our photography. A committee was formed that is led by Kathryn Mohrman, which determined the activities ranging from field trips, studio work, and social events, and that should offer something of interest to everyone. Please see the article on page 8 describing the activities. Also watch for future GordieGrams to learn how to participate.

If you haven't heard it, I would like to give a big shout out to our stellar newsletter team led by Cherry Wyman. Our Lens and Eye newsletter recently tied for third place in the Large Clubs division in the 2021 PSA Newsletter Contest! This is no small achievement given that we are grouped with many of the largest and most notable camera clubs in the country. Congratulations!!!

Lastly, I would like to welcome our new members and wait-listers! You are in for a great experience that will grow your creativity and artistry while bringing you into our wonderful community of photographers.

Best Regards,
Rich Chitty, President

Education Committee Update

The education committee is announcing two new groups, one on Photoshop and the other Street Photography. Three other new groups were announced recently, so if you haven't taken a look, look at them too. They are all marked with NEW. In addition, there are some terrific groups that still have openings and some of them require a minimum number to be successful and/or make the facilitator's/instructor's efforts worthwhile.

Please click [here](#) to review the current small group class offerings that are still open.

- Jill Randell, Education Chair

Fall Programs Lineup

Three external speakers and two internal programs are scheduled for the fall. Don't miss out on this exciting line-up, presented at our regular Wednesday evening meetings! Further details for the September programs are provided in this issue of the *Lens & Eye*. Details on the later programs will be provided soon.

September 22: iPhone Photography Grows Up. by Sue Bloom. See page 4 for details.

September 29: 2021-2022 Panel Photo Critique. See page 5 for details on this program.

October 27: 50 West, by Eric T. Johnson. In this program Eric will discuss his ongoing photographic project of U.S. Route 50, which creates a "personal visual chronicle of long-established places newly seen." Route 50, a major east-west road, is 3000 miles long and was created in 1925 as part of the original U.S. highway system. Eric will share his striking black and white photographs and will discuss "behind the scenes" information from this ambitious project.

Photography has been Eric's creative outlet for many years; he began shooting film and now photographs digitally. Since 2010 Eric has been a member of Multiple Exposures Gallery in Alexandria, where this body of work was exhibited.

November 10: Member Expo. NBCC members are invited to share 6 – 12 images of a related theme. The theme has no restriction other than it cannot be "just a travelogue." Each member will be introduced, say a few words about why they chose the theme and/or what they hope to communicate via their images, and then the images will be displayed by the program coordinator. There will be an opportunity for questions from the audience. We typically accept submissions from 15 – 18 members.

December 8: A Changing American Neighborhood: the East Baltimore Photography Project at SAAM, by Melissa Clark. In this program, Melissa will give us a virtual tour of this current exhibit, which documents an East Baltimore neighborhood in the 1970s, using photographs by Elinor Cahn, Joan Clark Netherwood and Linda Rich. Their images were taken as part of a program of photography surveys sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts to celebrate the bicentennial of the founding of the United States.

Melissa Clark is an award-winning photographer and landscape designer; she also is a long-time member of NBCC. After retiring as a landscape designer, Melissa became an in-gallery docent at the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) in 2017.

- Tammy Trocki, Programs Chair

Wonderful News to Share!

There is wonderful news to tell! An anonymous donor has come forward with a substantial gift to NBCC. This donor wishes to help reenergize our community after more than a year-and-a-half of isolation while also creating opportunities to improve our photographic skills.

A committee was formed to decide how to make the best use of this generous gift. In working with the donor, the committee focused on involving the greatest number of members and to provide for a range of interesting activities. The activities are:

1. Weekend workshop at Chincoteague led by Nikhil Bahl, November 12-14
2. Two day-long workshops on studio lighting and portraiture led by a notable photographer in February 2022
3. Weekend workshop at Cape May, New Jersey, with Tony Sweet on May 20-22
4. Afternoon cruise on the Potomac in early summer

The anonymous gift will cover payment for the program leaders, rental of space and equipment, and other direct costs. Participants will need to pay for their own transportation, lodging, and meals.

There will be an opportunity for each NBCC member to participate in at least one of these activities. We will have a system for registration based on members' preferences—more information to come!

- Kathryn Mohrman, Chair
Anonymous Gift Committee

Member News

Beth Altman and **Allen E Neyman's** photos have been juried into the "American Landscapes" exhibit of the **Maryland Federation of Art**. The juror is a curator at The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C.

The Circle Gallery show is open from **August 25 to September 18**. An onsite or virtual reception will be held August 29. For more information, click [here](#).



NYC Buildings © Beth Altman

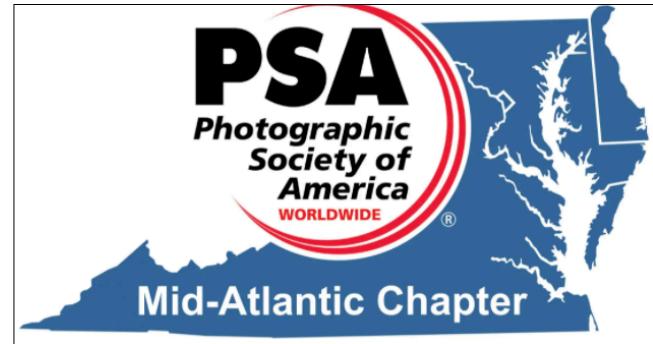


Cape Hatteras Path © Allen E. Neyman

Two of **Roy Sewall**'s photos, including the one on the cover of this newsletter, were selected for publication in the **Virginia Conservation Network's** annual book, "Our Common Agenda." (See <http://vcnva.org/our-common-agenda/>) The book "represents the policy agenda of more than 150 organizations across the Commonwealth...and features an in-depth analysis of the conservation issues facing Virginia and provides state-level policy solutions...."

From May 2 to August 8, Roy's 12 large panoramic metal prints of the C&O Canal graced the **National Institute of Health's** Clinical Center lobby in Bethesda, Maryland.

Also in May, his photo, "Return to the Mothership," was juried into the 2021 Annual **Joseph Miller Abstract Photography Exhibit** in Virginia.



PSA News

The best news I have is that the Mid-Atlantic Chapter (MAC) was awarded first place in the website contest for chapters. You can see the website here <https://psa-mid-atlantic-chapter.us/>. We are very fortunate that Emma Beatty Howells agreed to prepare our website, especially since she has moved from the area.

In addition, the chapter newsletter, *Double Exposure*, received third place in the chapter newsletter competition. MAC has continued its success in the chapter showcase competition and was awarded the 1st runner-up award. Chapter member Kathrin Swoboda won best of show overall and also best of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter showcase. Kathrin has been a consistent winner and is an excellent nature photographer.

- Judy Burr, PSA Representative

"The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera."

- Dorothea Lange





Maryland
Photography Alliance™

MPA 5th Annual Photography Contest

Submissions begin: September 1
Deadline: October 3

The Maryland Photography Alliance is sponsoring its 5th Annual Photography Contest this fall. There are lots of prizes and it costs nothing to participate. You may submit a total of 2 images which can come from the following four categories:

People in Action – People in a natural, informal setting (e.g., working, performing, playing).

Maryland Highways and Byways – Must include one or more of: streets, alleys, roads, trails/pathways, bridges, and RR tracks. They must be in Maryland.

Animal Life - Wild or domestic animals; full size, micro, or macro.

Elegant Imperfection – Finding beauty in the “imperfect, impermanent, or incomplete.”

I hope many of you will consider entering this year as NBCC has always done very well in this contest. Our field trip committee has been supportive and planned trips around some of these categories so you should have many wonderful images to share! Top images will be displayed in a gallery show. For more information visit:

www.mdphotoalliance.org/2021-photo-contest

- Carol Lee, MPA Representative



NBCC will again participate in the 2021 Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions (MAPV). This annual expo was formerly called Nature Visions Photography Expo (NVPE). Last year the expo was all-virtual due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will continue this year as a virtual event on November 5-7, 2021.

The main speakers include numerous well-known photographers:

Alister Benn – “The Secret to Life: The Real Power of Photography”

Angie McMonigal – “Abstract Architecture Photography”

Kristi Odom – “Creative Time-Lapse Photography”

Erin Babnik – “Color Theory in Landscape Photography”

John Barclay – “Portraits and Action Photography”

Sarah Marino – “Beyond the Grand Landscape”

Guy Tal – “Visual Language”

NBCC members are encouraged to enter images into the annual competition. Our club has been very successful in past competitions, with members winning awards every year the club has participated. (See the 2020-2021 winners on the next page.) This is the second year the competition will have an expanded photo arts section, with six categories in both nature and photo arts.

Don't miss the important dates for the MAPV competition on the next page.

- Monday, August 16 — Image submissions upload area opens for Nature and Photo Art Competitions
- Friday, September 10 -- Deadline to resubmit rejected images for Nature and Photo Art Competitions
- Friday, September 17 -- Final deadline for image submission for Nature and Photo Art Competitions
- Saturday, September 18 – Tuesday, September 21 -- Final image review
- Wednesday, September 22 -- Judging begins
- Wednesday, October 6 -- Judging ends
- Saturday, October 9 -- Accepted images announced

The six nature categories are: Birds; Wildlife; Macro/close-up/other; Water; Landscape; Flora other than macro.

The six photo arts categories are:
Architecture/Agriculture/Industry;
Abstracts/Altered Reality; People; Studio Photography; Sports/Action/Adventure; Other.

Members can submit up to six images for the nature competition and up to six images for the photo arts competition.

Please get your photos ready and submit them for these competitions. We strongly advise you to read the complete rules section and category descriptions before preparing your entry images. Club members can submit images for the competitions now. Entry submission directions and other information can be

found on the MAPV webpage at <http://midatlanticphotovisions.org/>.

If you have questions, contact John Norvell at norvellj@msn.com or Robert Barkin at robbarkin5217@comcast.net.

- *John Norvell, MAPV Representative*

NBCC's 2020-2021 Winning Images, MAPV

Best Documentary/Street
Love Is a Street Festival © Jill



People's Choice
For Existence © James Chia



Best in Abstracts
Ice Feathers © James Chia



Climate Change and Backyard Bee Photography

My wife has long planted things like bee balm, asters, cone flowers, mountain mint and caryopteris that attract bees and hummingbirds. It's well documented that bees everywhere are in decline, maybe as much because of pesticide use as climate change, both of which are the results of human actions on nature.

This is the first year I've noticed a big change in our backyard bee populations. For example, we usually had 10-12 bumble bees at one time working the bee balm in season. Last year it went down to about 6-8. This year I've never seen more than two bumble bees at a single time! We usually have 3-4 carpenter bees in early summer contending for territory, but I only saw one this year.

One decline that I especially regret is of the small metallic green sweat bees because they show well against almost any blossom. Other, even smaller, solitary bees are also rarer. Physically they're the most challenging to photograph, so their absence is even more galling because one must sit out in the sun longer just to see one of them. Although honey bees are still the most populous species by far, we know that they are in serious decline and have to be specially tended to by beekeepers. This must mean there are successful honey bee keepers within a three-mile radius of our house.



Bumble Bee on Milk Weed
(*Asclepius*)

Not every species seems to be in decline. There is a 10-foot tall, early blooming shrub whose name we've forgotten, with hundreds of small, white, fragrant blossoms that was covered with more wool carder bees than I ever recall seeing before. Wool carder bees, however, are not a native species. One of the more common species is fuzzy miner bees, which seem as common as before.



Wool Carder Bee on Mountain Mint



Leaf-cutter Bee on Mountain Mint

Like most organisms, bees are best photographed with their eyes as a focal point showing minimal reflection and sharp resolution of the hairy fringes around their eyes. While many bees have dark brown eyes, metallic green sweat bees have pastel green eyes with a lot of darker ovals, which provide a very attractive focal pattern.

Bees move constantly around flowers to find pockets of nectar. Maybe the optimal backgrounds for photographing bees are circular flowers like cone flowers or mountain mints. Wherever a bee lands, eventually it will circle the flower and come to face you. Flowers with more singular clusters of blossoms which the bee enters to get the nectar, or where it rapidly flicks from one to the other, are more challenging milieux.



Honey Bee on Mountain Mint

Bee photography virtually demands use of an AF macro lens and perhaps a teleconverter or extension tubes for more magnification: traditional 1:1 magnification may not give enough pixels for the smallest subjects once you've cropped your image. I often use both to ensure I can get the smallest subjects. Both teleconverters and extension tubes decrease your effective aperture and resolution, but with current sensors these are not major factors.

My AF system doesn't track bees very well, so I use a traditional single AF point with camera movement to fit the subject within my frame and employ lots of up, down, left, right thumb-jabbing to keep the AF

spot on the eye. I usually get a higher percentage of unblurred shots even in full sunlight by using flash. However, using flash conflicts with the aim of reducing reflection flare off eyes and shiny leg parts. Diffusing the flash can reduce the intensity and size of flare spots, but a better solution is to locate the flash directly above the subject. Often off-shoe location conflicts with placement of your rig in tight quarters. Off-shoe flash location also drains arm stamina more rapidly.

In summary, optimal bee photography is a matter of balancing several conflicting parameters to maximize your returns. The practical trade-off is how much a particular piece of gear increases your rate of satisfactory photos. The more experience one gets, the better the results. Above all, you need to get to it sooner than later because frankly, who knows how long bee photography will be feasible? Reducing human transgressions on the previously stable rhythms of nature should become our new prime directive.

- Bruce Cyr

Upcoming Competitions

<i>October</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>Quality of Light</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Street Photography</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>Nature</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Minimalist Photography</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>Long Exposure</i>
<i>January</i>	<i>6-Month Open</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Black & White Open</i>

NBCC Board of Directors, Committees and Appointments 2021-22

OFFICERS

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
Rich Chitty	Cherry Wyman	Kathryn Mohrman	Claudia Seelig

DIRECTORS

Kent Mason	Roy Sewall	Toni Robinson
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STANDING COMMITTEES

Competition Judy Switt* <i>Prints:</i> Geoff Hornseth Dick Pelroy Nikos Zacharakis <i>Electronic:</i> Robert Barkin Max Kantzer Eric Schweitzer	Judges TBD* Mark McDonough Guillermo Olaizola R. Pamboukian Sarah H. Salomon Mark Segal	Field Trips James Corbett* Beth Altman George Corbin Kurt Focke Kevin Gebo Thomas Gross Pauline Jaffe Julia Malone Dick Pelroy Jack Rosenberg Tara Ryan Paul Schmitz Jeffrey Taksey Jim Turner	Exhibitions Lester LaForce* Sarah H. Salomon John Willis
Education Jill Randell* Toni Robinson	Membership Toni Robinson* Steve Frahm Guillermo Olaizola Don Tobin Cherry Wyman		Programs Tammy Trocki* Judy Ackerman Evelyn Jacob Kent Mason Toni Robinson Jack Rosenberg David Terao Ray Whitman
	MAPV John Norvell* Robert Barkin		MPA Carol Lee*

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Community Outreach <i>Phabulous</i> <i>Photographers</i> Joel Hoffman* <i>Montgomery County High School Photography Program</i> Kent Mason*	Equipment Max Kantzer* David Davidson Mark Leatherman Mark McDonough Nikos Zacharakis	Photo Essay Stu Mathison* José Cartas Mark Segal John Willis Nancy Wolejsza	Competition Submissions Cherry Wyman* John Allender James Corbett Shelley Price
<i>Focus on Climate</i> Roy Sewall*	Hospitality Riko Saidel* Geri Millman Bill Seelig Terry Van Houten Ray Whitman	Hybrid Zoom Meetings Max Kantzer* Steve Lapidus Allen Neyman Jill Randell Tammy Trocki	Anonymous Gift Kathryn Mohrman* Melissa Clark James Corbett Joel Hoffman Kent Mason Sarah H. Salomon

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Lens & Eye Cherry Wyman* Janice Solomon	Facebook Group Administrator Toni Robinson	Database Administrator Bruce Cyr	Asbury Liaison Rich Chitty
Share & Care Representative Pauline Jaffe	GordieGram Administrator Toni Robinson	Google Chat Group Administrator Bruce Cyr	Dinner Reservations Kay Norvell
PSA Representative Judy Burr	Webmaster John Allender	Church Liaison Rich Chitty	Website Shelley Price* John Allender Rich Chitty Cherry Wyman

* denotes Committee Chair

Last Update: 8/16/21