

inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

September 2021

**DUES
are
DUE!**



INSIDE:

Mentoring

When Life Gives You Fog

World Elephant Day

Playland Field Trip



Welcome Back

After a short break in August, inFocus is back on its regular monthly schedule. And with September, WPS's new season begins. Please remember to renew your membership by the beginning of September. And note that a current membership is needed to participate in members-only activities such as competitions and exhibitions.

Our competition season begins with Competition 1a (Digital Color and Open Mind) on September 17th. As we are still unable to meet in person due to the pandemic, our print competitions will once again be replaced by theme competitions. Dennis has chosen some wonderful themes that I hope you'll all find inspiring: Books, Chiaroscuro, Balance, Rust Never Sleeps, Negative Space, and Pepper No. 30.

We have three exhibitions coming up, which is an exciting sign that things are returning to some semblance of normalcy. Contact Lois regarding "The Healing Power of Gardens" at the Cancer Treatment Center, or Arnold for "Moments in Time" at the Greenburgh Public Library and "My Favorite Memories" at the Ossining Public Library.

We've had wonderful guest speakers this past year, both from outside and from our own membership, and have an excellent program scheduled for the coming year. I hope to see you all online at our Zoom meetings.

Our most recent guest speaker James Maher jokingly mentioned a "creepy dolls" online community while he was showing one of his photos. Here's what my entry in that category could be:



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

—Fuat Baran, *President*

COVER PHOTO

BLUE GRAY TANAGER

By Roger Chenault

This is a Blue Gray Tanager and was taken on a birding trip that I took to Costa Rica in 2019. The beautiful color is what attracted me although there were many more colorful birds around.



inFocus

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Dick Budnik, Web Edition

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

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



Member of



FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

September

- 3 No Meeting: Labor Day
- 10 Lisa Cuchara, "Wabi-Sabi"
- 17 Competition 1A
- 24 TBA

October

- 1 Leah den Bok, "But still We Can Do Something-Stories of the Homeless"
- 8 Members' Open Critique (3-5 images)
- 15 Competition 1B (+Theme)
- 22 Members 5/20 minute Presentations; Mentoring Session
- 29 Competition 2A

November

- 5 Dennis Thornton, "Photographing Waterfalls"
- 12 Inside Speaker, Mentoring Session
- 19 Competition 2B (+Theme)
- 26 No Meeting: Thanksgiving

December

- 3 Nick Palmieri, "How to Make Competition Grade Digital Images"
- 10 Competition 3A
- 17 Holiday Party
- 24 No Meeting: Christmas
- 31 No Meeting: New Years

Janusry

- 7 Chris Paulis, "Restoring Photographs"
- 14 Competition 3B (+Theme)
- 21
- 28

February

- 4 Competition 4A
- 11
- 18
- 25

Pleaste note:

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

COMING UP



Lisa Cuchara on September 10

Lisa Cuchara, PhD, Master Craftsman (PPA), Master of Photography (M. Photog.) Lisa & Tom are very passionate about photography and enjoy both being behind the lens and in the digital darkroom. She loves to photograph nature but finds many subjects equally intriguing. Lisa and her husband Tom are known for their expertise in Photography and in Photoshop, and for their inspirational and informative photography workshops. Lisa has created numerous award-winning photographic images and enjoys sharing her vision, passion and her knowledge! Her photographs have appeared in Adirondack Life, Wild Bird, Birder's World, in calendars, on the cover of a fictional paperback novel, in galleries and exhibitions, and been accepted into the PPA loan collection. Lisa & Tom have published two books with Amherst Media "Create Fine Art Photographs from Historic Places and Rusty Things" and "The Frog Whisperer."

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Wabi-Sabi

This program will explore the beauty of imperfect and/or unconventional subjects. As nature photographers we often seek out the flowers, leaves and such that are perfect, with no blemishes or defects. This program highlights subjects that are not perfect, such as flowers that have character, double headed flowers, decaying fall leaves, the deformed coneflower that stands out as flawed and hence different and beautiful, rust as it creates abstract patterns amidst the decay, etc. We will also explore the concept of slowing down and appreciating the beauty of everyday life, things that might be overlooked. As purveyors of rust and decay we appreciate the perseverance and beauty of "life after humans" as cars and equipment falls apart and succumbs to oxidation and decay. Wabi-Sabi teaches us to find beauty in everyday life. It is a kind of anti-aesthetic, an alternative to the dominating discriminatory ideas we hold about beauty. "Wabi means a beauty of elegant imperfection. Sabi means aloneness. Together, they suggest the beauty of 'the withered, weathered, tarnished, scarred, intimate, coarse, earthly, evanescent, tentative, ephemeral.' ~ Crispin Sartwell, Six Names of Beauty. It is a way of honoring that everything is impermanent, and we are always in a state of both becoming and falling away. It is used to describe a particular philosophy that beauty can be found in the old, the everyday, the imperfect. Wabi Sabi applies to more than nature and the seasons of change and decay, but it also to the "Life after Humans" arena or UrbEx (urban exploration). As a side note, the term Wabi Sabi can also be part of the social movement of embracing imperfection of your physical traits as a human being, especially with respect to self-perception and celebrating imperfection in a society that encourages people to be perfect and pressures people to be flawless.

MARKETPLACE



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Contact Information

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

AREA MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

NOTE:
Some of these museums are temporarily closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check their websites for more information.

Metropolitan Museum
(www.metmuseum.org)
New Woman Behind the Camera
Through Oct 3

Museum of Modern Art
(www.moma.org)
New Photography 2020 (Online) Collection
Ongoing

International Center for Photography
(www.icp.org)
New Exhibits start Sept 24

Fotografiska
(www.fotografiska.com/museums/)
Many Exhibits
Ongoing through the summer and more

New-York Historical Society
(www.nyhistory.org)
Photography Archives
See online exhibits

Museum of the City of NY
(mcny.org)
Kadir van Lohuizen : Rising Tide
Through Jan 2022

Whitney Museum of American Art
(<https://whitney.org/>)
Dawoud Bey: An American Project
Through Oct 3

ArtsWestchester
(artswestchester.org/)
Check website

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

WPS GROUP EXHIBITS

Northern Westchester Hospital/ Chappaqua Crossing
"Sports/Action or Movement"
Exhibit: Ongoing

Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center Northern Westchester Hospital
"Our World of Water"
Pick Up: Sept 13 (Sept 20–Rain)

Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center Northern Westchester Hospital
"The Healing Power of Gardens"
Drop Off: Sept 13 (9:15-10:00)
Exhibit: Sept 13-June 2022

Greenburgh Public Library— Virtual & Live
"Moments in Time"
Drop Off: Oct 15
Pick Up: Nov 30
Exhibit: Oct 15 - Nov 30

Ossining Public Library— Virtual & Live
"My Favorite Memories"
Drop Off: Dec 1
Pick Up: Dec 30
Exhibit: Dec 1 - Dec 30

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

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

Hunts
(<https://edu.huntsphoto.com>)
check online

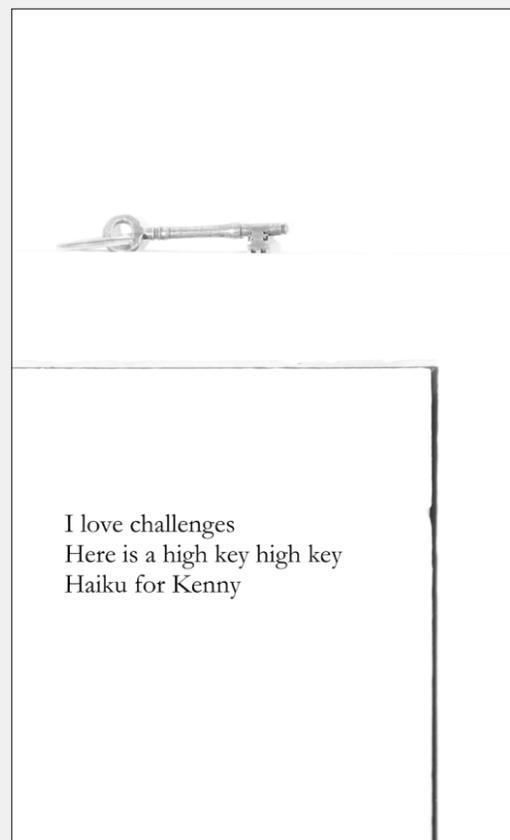
B&H
(<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/find/EventSpace.jsp>)
check online

Adorama
(<http://www.adorama.com/alc/events>)
check online

WPS FIELD TRIPS

(<https://www.wpsphoto.org/members-field-trips>)
More Photo Opportunities in the Field Trip area.

From Fuat Baran



From Joe Pollock

Mentoring session #2

Restoring a 60 Year-old Photograph

1. Scan photo to bring into your computer.
2. Make 2 tiff copies.
3. Go to image – resize – image size and make the photo an 8 x 10. Make 2 copies.
4. Look closely at the background for any impurities. I use Photoshop raw and the correction brush there to darken the background.
5. Use the auto levels and auto color to enhance the people.
6. This should bring the couple upfront with a dark background and crop to 8 x 10 size.



Original Photo

Final Photo



When Life Gives You Fog

By Barbara Kapetanakes

Obviously we've all been in the same boat for the past 18 months due to COVID. Plans being changed or canceled. Feeling isolated due to social distancing and zoom meetings. Worry over infection rates. So I was that much more excited to finally go on a weekend trip I had planned in January, 2020, which was canceled for COVID, but rescheduled this year for the last weekend in June. Some of you have gone on this same photo adventure in northern Maine to photograph puffins on an island where they nest and breed. After a year and a half of looking forward to this trip, and the disappointment of it being a COVID casualty, I was finally three hours from setting sail on a small boat, excited at the prospect of going up onto the island and shooting out of small blinds only feet from the puffins. Fantasies of my winning photos danced in my head, and the little girl who wanted to be a vet or work in a zoo was giddy about seeing such adorable specimens up close and witnessing their behavior.

The world had other plans. Fog and rough seas caused Captain Andy to call me only a few hours before the trip to say that he couldn't safely take us out to the island that day, and perhaps the next as well (he actually canceled for three days). He was lovely and apologetic, but he doesn't control the weather and this couldn't be helped. I was extremely disappointed, but it wasn't worth being upset over when it was out of anyone's control. I had also booked a moose tour and hoped to get some good photo ops there. Plus, Maine is pretty, full of lighthouses and pretty scenery, and I planned to go out and shoot the first sunrise in the US, in Lubec, the easternmost point of the country. While I had driven over 500 miles mostly to see the puffins, I also had other things planned to fill my few days.

Well, the world STILL had other plans. The foggy weather didn't lift the entire time I was in Maine. Inland the weather was beautiful, so I did some hiking in beautiful parks, and the moose tour was a pleasure (though only one moose came out and posed for us!), but anything on the coast was damp, foggy, and extremely variable. Going out for a 4AM sunrise shoot was a bust...the fog was so thick it blocked out the



sun. But what an opportunity to learn to use the sky replacement tool! I brought my bike with me, and walked out of my hotel the first morning to take a quick ride about 5 miles to a lighthouse, but it was raining. I decided to wait a little while and check the weather again, which lied and said that it wasn't raining. Determined to use the bike I had schlepped in the back of my car, I ventured out when the rain let up a bit, riding there and back in a light drizzle, toting a camera in my bike bag to get soggy and foggy pictures of what is apparent-



ly the most photographed lighthouse in the country, Nubble, before checking out and continuing up the coast to my puffin destination, hoping that the weather would improve as my trip went on.

On my moose tour, the guide suggested that I check if I could get a puffin tour out of Boothbay Harbor before I left for home the next morning, and that even though it was more of a large whale watching boat and there would be no "up close and personal" with the birds, it still might be a fun activity before going home. It turned out to be a nice day and I took the approximately 2-1/2-hour scenic cruise and grabbed some lunch in Boothbay Harbor before my final drive to NY. While

I didn't get nearly close enough to get those winning photos I imagined, I was grateful for a long lens and high megapixel camera so I could zoom in and get SOMETHING—puffins are much smaller than their chubby bodies and large, colorful beaks would imply, only about 12 inches tall! Side note: even though the boat was large and held at least 100 people, this tour outfit had also canceled their whale and puffin watching tours the day before due to rough seas. I suppose coastal Maine doesn't have the most predictable weather, even in summer!



I have my sights set on going back someday and meeting Captain Andy and his crew so I can get those winning puffin shots. Meanwhile, I made the most of my trip, the mysteriousness of the fog, the solitude in the woods, the pretty lighthouses, and the interesting roadside attractions that the Roadside America app led me to. It was a lot of driving to end up disappointed, but art can be found anywhere. And when life gives you fog, think moody, think black and white, think outside the box!



World Elephant Day

By Fuat Baran <fuat@columbia.edu>

August 12th was the 10th Anniversary of [World Elephant Day](#). I first heard about it in 2014 and have been participating each year since then. World Elephant Day's goal is to create awareness about vulnerable (African) and endangered (Asian) elephants and to promote better care and management of all elephants, captive or in the wild. Elephants today face numerous issues from poaching due to demand for ivory, habitat loss to deforestation for agriculture and mining, conflict with humans as elephants and humans live in closer proximity due to habitat loss, and mistreatment in captivity. Today it is estimated that there are less than half a million elephants left in the world (around 415,000 African, and 40,000 Asian), and approximately 96 elephants are illegally killed each day by poachers.

World Elephant Day was conceived by Canadian filmmaker Patricia Sims; the film [Return to the Forest](#) directed by Sims and narrated by William Shatner was released on the inaugural World Elephant Day in 2012. World Elephant Day is recognized and observed by over 100 wildlife organizations. World Elephant Day asks supporters to express their concerns, share their knowledge and support solutions for better treatment of elephants. They suggest using the hashtag **#WorldElephantDay** for social media posts.

In 2014 I posted my first World Elephant Day photo. I decided to make a black and white self-portrait while wearing a Wildlife Conservation Society t-shirt featuring an elephant and holding a plush toy elephant in my hand.



The next year when World Elephant Day came around, I decided to do essentially the same thing. And you know me, it doesn't take much for me to launch a new series project...



2015 was a square crop selfie, in 2016 I used an iPhone app called "Koloid" which is a software simulation of the collodion wet plate process, and 2017 was an "instant" photo.

I branched out into color the next two years with photos taken on the deck on Cape Cod

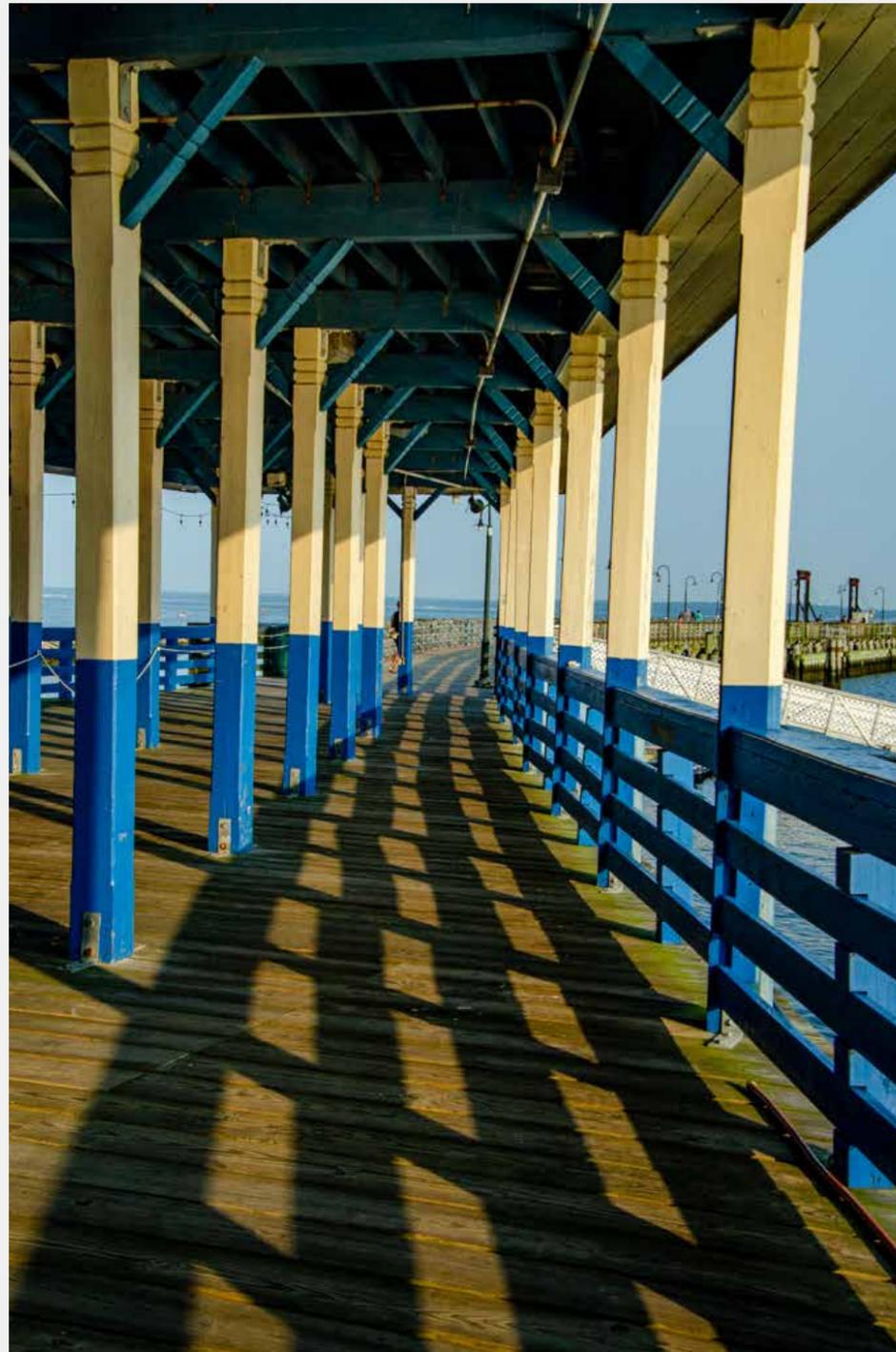


2020 was a return black and white using an instant photo simulation app on my iPhone. But this year I returned to color again and also tried to get my cats involved.



You can see my project [album on Flickr](#). Please join me in your own way next August 12th.

WPS Playland Field Trip



On July 15 we took a trip to Rye Playland organized by Jackie Ross. We met at the fountain at 6pm and proceeded into the park. Since it was still daylight, it was a good time to shoot street scenes. We then all met at the Dragon Coaster at 8 PM to try to get night shots, but since sunset was not until 8:30, it was not ideal. I think it would be best to go later in the season as it gets dark earlier when it might be better to get night shots.

P.S. Make sure park administrators are aware in advance of the group's plans. Check before you arrive, and then check again.

Photos By
 Roger Chenault
 Mitchell Druck
 Jackie Ross
 Al Sarnotsky



inFocus

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Westchester Photographic Society

Ron Carran, editor

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