

inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

July/August 2020

A photograph of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a bright red jacket, looking out of a Gothic-style window. The window has a grid pattern and is set within a stone frame with pointed arches. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The woman is positioned in the center-right of the frame, looking towards the left.

INSIDE:

EOY Competition

Signs of the Times

Feature

Field Trip



Less is More

During these pandemic days there are articles, media programs and individual lamentations of what we are unable to do, of where we are unable to go while we hope and pray that medical research will find a viable, reliable global treatment for Covid-19 as they continue to create a vaccine.

“Less is more” is a phrase first ascribed to the architect, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. It can be expanded to include all the arts as well as our lives today. With social distancing and isolation at home we are being forced to prioritize what is important in our lives. I recently heard an interview with a brilliant Muslim playwright, Rohina Malik, who used the phrase to describe how she depicts a particular event. She elaborated by saying that she eliminates anything that is extraneous, anything that does not add to the play’s message.

The connection with photography and our current lives was immediately clear. We have to concentrate on what we cannot live without, not the frivolous things we want, but the basics of food, clothing, shelter and above all decency to each other.

Our photos’ messages are stronger when we remove the extraneous elements. Just as our lives today are healthier when we focus (pun intended) on what is important.

Stay safe, stay healthy, keep shooting!

Warmly,

Deborah Lea Cohen, *President*

COVER PHOTO

YALE WINDOW WOMAN

By *Ned Sheehy* I took

A woman watches the festivities on the campus of Yale University in the late 1970’s.

Taken with a Pentax MX camera



inFocus

Ron Carran, Editor
Dick Budnik, Web edition

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Competitions

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Sylvie Epperly

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Jane Gordon, Julie Van Benthuyssen

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Competition Scores Reporting

Mark Friedman, Ken Salstrom

Equipment, Projectionist

Jonathan Kaplan

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Deborah Cohen, Sylvie Epperly

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Dick Budnik, Lois Barker,
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newsletter: infocus@wpsphoto.org
www.wpsphoto.org

Westchester Photographic Society
meets 10 months a year, on Friday evenings at 8:00 pm (excepting school holidays) in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester, at 236 S Bedford Rd, Mt Kisco, NY. Guests are welcome.



FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

July

- 3 No Meeting: Labor Day
- 10 Online Meeting—TBA
- 17 Hunt's, "Know More About Photo Gear"
- 24 Online Meeting—TBA
- 31 Online Meeting—TBA

August

- 7 Online Meeting—TBA
- 14 Online Meeting—TBA
- 21 Online Meeting—TBA
- 28 Online Meeting—TBA

September

- 4 No Meeting: Labor Day
- 11 [Charles Glatzer, "The Comprehensive Wildlife Photographer"](#)
- 18 No Meeting: Rosh Hashanah
- 25 Competition 1A

October

- 2 Jeff Um
- 9 Competition 1B
- 16 Ted & Nune, "[Fine Art Architectural Photography: From Idea to Print](#)"
- 23 Members' Critique
- 30 Competition 2A

November

- 6 Out of the Box, "PA Treasures Field Trip"
- 13 Members' Mix (5 and 20 min presentations)
- 20 Competition 2B
- 27 No Meeting: Thanksgiving

December

- 4 Ashok Sinha, Gas and Glamour, "[Roadside Architecture in Los Angeles](#)"
- 11 Competition 3A
- 18 Holiday Party
- 25 No Meeting: Christmas

Please note:

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



Charles Glatzer on September 11

Chas is a Canon "Explorer of Light", a small prestigious group of the world's leading professional photographers, providing insight, inspiration, and education to future generations of creative photographers.

Since founding "Shoot The Light," an instructional photographic workshop and series, in the mid-nineties, Chas has cemented his place in the world as one of the top wildlife photographers working today. His dynamic and inspirational teaching has also made him one of the most sought-after educators and keynote speakers in his field.

The depth and diversity of his background make him truly exceptional in the world of wildlife photography.

Chas' diverse work experience over his 37 years as a professional photographer provides workshop participants and seminar attendees with an unparalleled resource. As an accomplished natural history and keynote speaker, Chas also continues to serve on many judges' panels for both national and international photographic competitions.

Chas' work has been celebrated internationally with over 40 prestigious awards for superior photographic competence demonstrated through photographic competition, advanced education, and service to the profession.

His images are recognized internationally for their lighting, composition, and attention to detail and have appeared in many publications worldwide including National Geographic, Outdoor Photographer, Popular Photography, National Parks, and many more.

The Comprehensive Wildlife Photographer" 2020

A Program Designed to Enhance Both Your Technical Ability and Visual Sense

MARKETPLACE

TAMRON 16-300 mm PZ LENS for NIKON
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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, Deborah Cohen.

NOTE:

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

Metropolitan Museum
(www.metmuseum.org)
Photography's Last Century

Museum of Modern Art
(www.moma.org)
Look online

International Center for Photography
(www.icp.org)
Many online exhibits
Through Sept 30

Brooklyn Museum
(www.brooklynmuseum.org)
See online exhibits

Fotografiska
(www.fotografiska.com/museums/)
Many Exhibits
Check website

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

WPS FIELD TRIPS

<https://www.wpsphoto.org/members-field-trips>

We're looking for people to suggest and organize field trips!

**Northern Westchester Hospital/
Chappaqua Crossing**
"Sports/Action or Movement"
Drop Off: Monday, Nov 4, 9:30AM
Exhibit: Nov 4 - ongoing

**Cancer Treatment and
Wellness Center**
Northern Westchester Hospital
"Our World of Water"
Drop Off: Mon, Jan 13, 9:30 - 10AM
Reception: Feb 1, 2-4 PM
Exhibit: Jan 13 - ongoing

(Samplings only. Please log on to websites to see the entire schedules)

B&H Photo
<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/find/EventSpace.jsp>

check online

Adorama
<http://www.adorama.com/alc/events>

check online



**Check out Hunt's Photo
Great Education Offerings!**

<https://edu.huntsphoto.com>

**Stay
Home**



**Stay
SAFE**

USEFUL LINKS

Links From Ed Lee at Park West Camera Club

I recommended a duplicate photo finder and remover, Awesome Duplicate Finder, free software that I have been using for years. Here's a link which includes 10 other finders and their pros and cons: https://blogs.systemweak.com/5-duplicate-photo-finder-tools-to-delete-duplicate-photos/?utm_source=footer&utm_campaign=recommended.

Hand-in-hand with removing duplicate images is photo management software. Here are some recommendations: <https://www.tomsguide.com/us/pictures-story/412-best-free-photo-management-software.html>.

Need something to do while sheltering-in-place? 10 suggestions in this article: https://digital-photography-school.com/10-photography-projects-you-can-work-on-from-home/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=April-2320.

For info about the \$1200 stimulus check, see this article from AARP: <https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/advocacy/info-2020/coronavirus-stimulus-checks.html>. To see if you've already received the check, go to: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>.

[Please see the NYMACC website for more at-home activities](#)

EOY: COLOR B DIGITAL



Barbara Pollack, First
Pink Flower in Water



Barbara Pollack, Second
Glass Wing Butterfly



Barbara Pollack, HM
Julia Butterfly

EOY: COLOR A DIGITAL



Carolyn Colella, First
White Flower



Carolyn Colella, Second
Pearls of Corn



Jackie Rosse, Third
Vermont Milky Way

EOY: COLOR A DIGITAL



Arnold Breisblatt, HM
Garlic Power



Voyin Hrnjak, HM
Golden Silk Orb Weaver



Jackie Ross, HM
Sunset Boardwalk

EOY: COLOR SALON DIGITAL



Chris Moore, First
Fountain Pen Nibs in Circle



Jun Shihoten, Second
Dragonfly on Water Lilly



Dennis Thornton, Second
Structural Spinosaurus

EOY: COLOR SALON DIGITAL

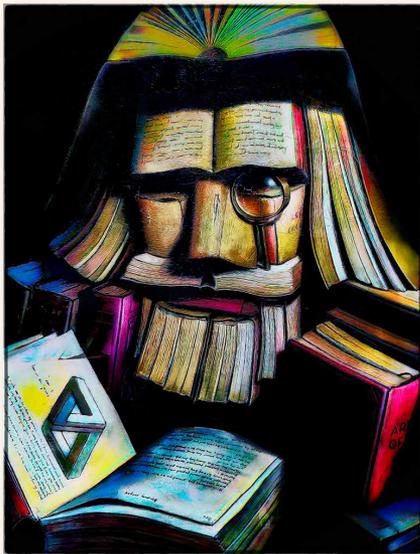


Anastasia Tompkins, Third
Feeding Bluebirds



Anastasia Tompkins, HM
Feeding Spoonbills

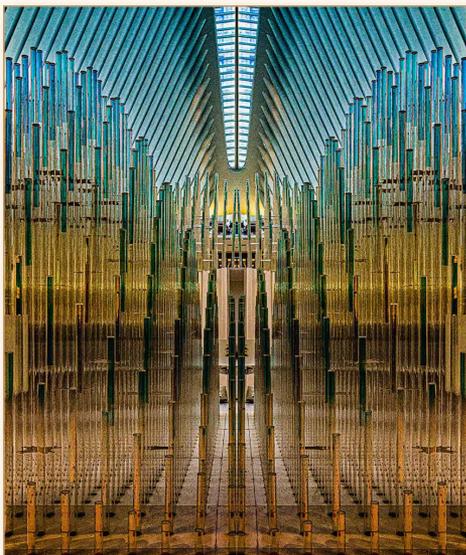
EOY: OPEN MIND DIGITAL



Anastasia Tompkins, First
Book Smart



Anastasia Tompkins, Second
Santeria Dancer



Voyin Hrnjak, Third
Reflections



Chris Moore, HM
Open Your Mind with This

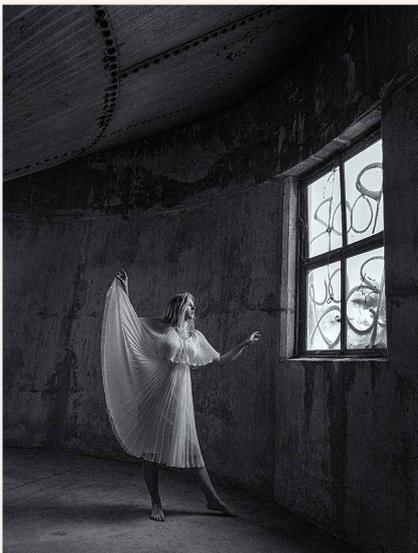
EOY: B&W DIGITAL



Dennis Thornton, First
Alli On the Diagonal



Nancy Faulds, Second
Formerly



Dennis Thornton, Third
Shelby

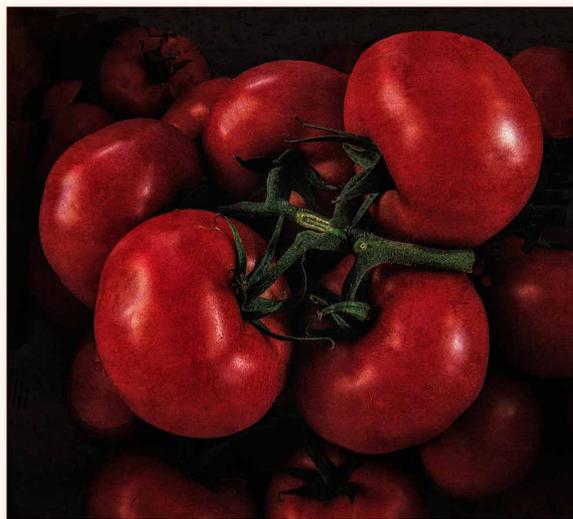


Jun Shihoten, HM
Lotus and Bee

EOY: COLOR PRINTS



Voyin Hrnjak, First
Onyx



Arnold Breisblatt, Second
Tomato Beauty

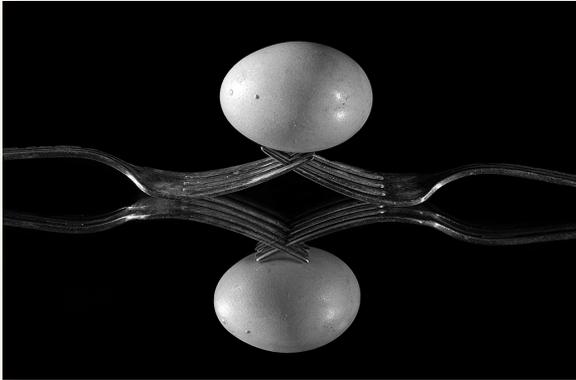


Dennis Thornton, Third
Frozen Dreams



Dennis Thornton, HM
Red Belly Woodpecker

EOY: B&W PRINTS



Dennis Thornton, First
Forks of Confusion



Arnold Breisblatt, Second
Rose Beauty



Dennis Thornton, Third
San Antonio Cattlestation



Dennis Thornton, HM
Upper Linville Falls

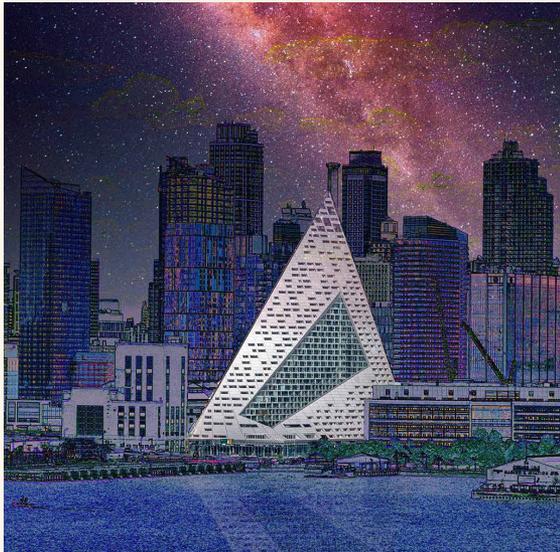
EOY: OPEN MIND PRINTS



Dennis Thornton, First
Pedals of Blue



Arnold Breisblatt, Second
Sweet Potato Fright



Voyin Hrnjak, Third
Midtown Pyramid



Voyin Hrnjak, HM
Meditation



Unique Photo Op.

Barbara Kapetanakes

One recent afternoon I got a text from fellow WPS member, Dennis Thornton, telling me he was planning to go to the Rockefeller the next morning for a “unique” photo op and did I want to come. The “unique” part intrigued me and I asked for more explanation.

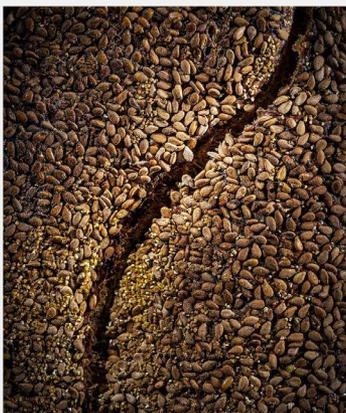
Dennis informed me that there were some baby animals in the park, in the area near Stone Barns. Always a sucker for any animal, but particularly baby animals, I quickly made plans to meet the next morning for a quick shoot.

While there were some groups of sheep, including younger ones, it was really the baby goats that were the stars of the show that morning. Dennis had just by chance gone for a walk not 48 hours prior and saw some that were so newly born they had their umbilical cords still attached. By the time I saw them, they were big enough to romp and play, climbing on their mothers, nibbling on each other, and frolicking in the grass. We did see one goat who looked like she was probably going to give birth that day, but otherwise it appeared all or most of the babies had been born.

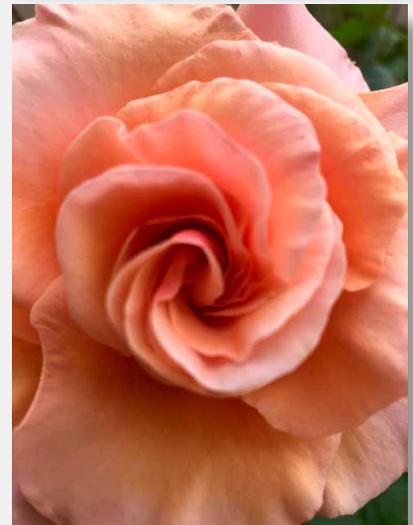
Not surprisingly other walkers and runners stopped to take a peek at the newborns when they saw them in their enclosure, ooohing and whipping out their phones for pictures. I was glad for the opportunity to see the little cuties only a couple of days old and grateful to have WPS and the connections I’ve made here to alert me to a fun photo op.



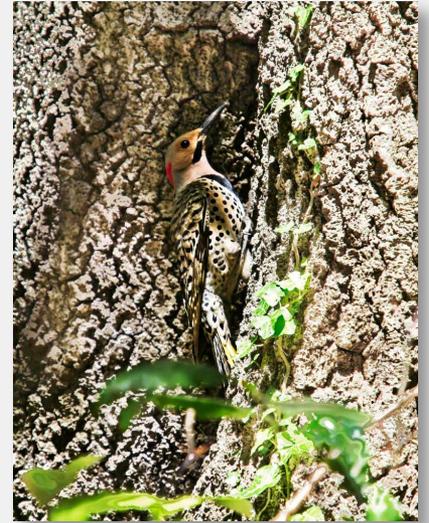
Dennis Thornton



Julie Van Benthuisen



Mitchell Druck



Jackie Ross



Kenny Salstrom





Arnold Bresiblatt



Bonnie Katz



Lewis Bogaty



The Psychology of Photography

By Larry Blau

WHAT DO I MEAN BY THE “PSYCHOLOGY OF PHOTOGRAPHY?” Many people think that photography is the process whereby you pick up a camera or cell phone and aim and shoot. That’s true and some of us are better than others

With the saturation of cell phones around the world, everyone takes pictures. I have never been a proponent of picture taking with my cell phone and rarely use it for that purpose.

When I started in photography, in the 1950’s, with film, I noticed that my mind would wander and that a glow would encircle me. Unfortunately, I gave up photography for about fifty years until my last two children graduated college.

Then it happened. I remember being dragged by one of my soul mates, Joe Pollock, to a camera on I store in Connecticut. Joe suggested a digital camera and I purchased a Nikon D40. Can you image using this camera today? A six megapixel camera with primitive ISO and white balance. Auto ISO did not exist and what was a full frame camera?

I remember going with Joe to take pictures around the neighborhood. My patience had not come back yet. After living and thinking in the fast lane for over fifty years, it was hard to immediately turn on the patience that is required.

Then it happened. My eye came back. It happened in Vietnam. In 2004, my wife and I went to there to celebrate putting our four children through various colleges and surviving emotionally and financially. The trip was for three weeks. Of course, I brought my D40 with me and consistently used it. My eye came back and the glow started to reappear. I was experiencing a brief visit to what I always wanted to do with my life. I dreamed about being a photo journalist, traveling around the world and presenting my vision of the places I visit.

Unfortunately, I do not have any images for that trip. They were all edited on an old MAC using iPhoto that I discarded many years ago. Late in 2004, I took a trip to Cambodia to get involved in a local charity. I spent ten days living in a



village in Northern Cambodia that had no electricity nor any plumbing. That trip was an experience. When I returned, I suffered from social shock. I fell in love with the Cambodian people and have since made nine trips there. I am attaching some images from those trips.

It took me another ten years to start fulfilling that lifetime dream. Today, the glow and passion is stronger than ever and I have realized that I need my photography more than ever.

What do I mean by that? Every time I grab my camera, my mind goes into another realm. A calmness comes over me that I cannot describe. A part of my mind clicks into play that was not used for many years. My vision of what I am seeing and how to create what I want others to see, is all important and nothing else matters during that time.

For me, my camera and photography has been my salvation in helping me get through our crisis. Doing photography locally is far different than, let’s say, Africa. In Africa, great subject matter jumps out at you. You never have to look far. I use my creative ability to present that great subject matter the way I want it seen. I have learned that I have to use my creative mind much more now. I have to search for the subject matter I want and need. I also look at subjects, such as flowers, in a different way. I now stare at the flowers I had previously ignored and try to capture their beauty.

Today, I take pictures at least two to four times a week. I need that glow and patience that I can only get with my camera.

I plan on having my family put one of my cameras in my coffin. In this way, I will be ready for what I face on the other side.



Angkor Wat—Junglr—Cambodia



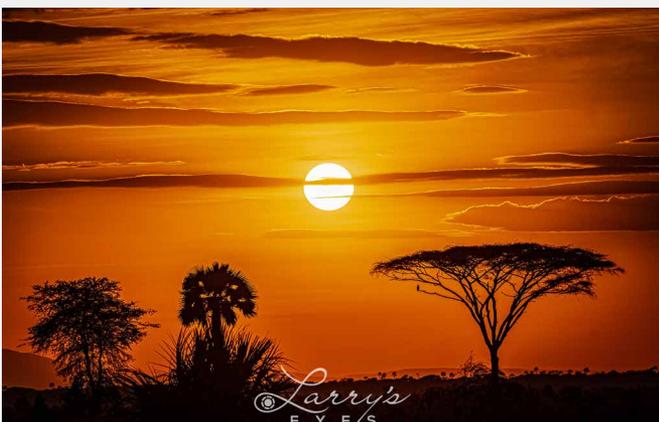
Local



African Wild Dogs



Local



Tanzania Sunrise



Equador Cloud Forest—Hummingbirds

Lasdon Park, A Not So Hidden Gem

by *Deborah Lea Cohen*

The fear of going to a park with crowds of people not wearing masks and not social distancing kept many of us away from the beautiful parks in Westchester County. The goal became finding a beautiful park that was not as well known...Lasdon Park in Katonah was the answer for me. I then invited WPS members to go on their own self-guided field trip.

A few days before my visit to Lasdon, Dick played a podcast by James ProSys on exposure bracketing in his Tuesday class. He takes three images at one stop intervals then chooses which to process. I thought I'd test it and would recommend that others at least try it out. I've included two of my first attempts.

The descriptions and photos by Kenny, Serge, Stephanie and Larry of each of their days at Lasdon will show why this is a beautiful place to visit.

Kenny: I decided to go to Lasdon Arboretum on Sunday, May 31. It was a great day; not warm and not chilly. There was a beautiful cloudy blue sky and the sun periodically disappeared behind the clouds allowing me to shoot closeups without harsh shadows. Some of the lilacs were still in bloom but didn't do anything for me. They smelled great though. I then headed to the conifer collection where I took photos of the newly green tips. Many of the branches were covered with lichens which indicates good air quality. I saw some blue nearby and found a field of Lupines. I shot them closeup and further away. Further on was the Chinese Friendship Pavilion with its small lake with some nice willows. Heading back to my car I passed three birches growing together and liked the way they overlapped. I think that they work well as Black and White. I'm going to go back some time and shoot them again. The fountain near the parking lot had a young boy wading in it which I couldn't pass up. I was shooting with my Olympus E-M5 mkII with the 60mm macro. I shot handheld and with a tripod.



Serge: I made two trips, one on a sunny day, one on a cloudy day. Enjoyed the variety. My favorite was the Dinosaur farm. I could almost hear my granddaughter in Atlanta running around their house making dinosaur growls.



Stephanie: I passed by Lasdon estate for over 40 years. For half that time it was a private residence. Everyone was curious about what lay beyond perfectly trimmed privacy hedges and the sprawling manicured lawn. In 1986 Westchester county bought the property and in 1991 it opened as Westchester's first public arboretum. I remember going to concerts on the lawn behind the great house and going through the conservatory. There are several paths to take which evoke a different sensibility. The Veterans' Memorial walk is a tranquil path through a "forest" with sculptures commemorating the various conflicts. A totally different experience is arriving at the butter cream colored fountain surrounded by formal plantings. Great expanses of lawns dotted with picnic tables invite everyone to stop, look, and enjoy this peaceful oasis.



Larry: I am constantly searching out new and exciting opportunities for my photography. My current plan is to go out searching and picture taking around three to four times per week. The soul constantly needs refreshing during our crisis.

About two weeks ago, I met Joe Pollock in the parking lot at Lasdon Park in Katonah. The Park is located off of Route 35 and the drive from Millwood, on Route 100, is worth the visit alone. You drive through the Croton Watershed and you could see some interesting opportunities off of Route 100. When you come to Route 35, make a left and the Park entrance is about three miles down on your left.

We decided to focus on the flower gardens. I attached my 70-200 to my Sony and off we went. Creativity is the norm. I was constantly letting my mind wander to try and create beautiful images of the flowers and the other structures. My mind woke up to the different textures of the flowers and their vibrant colors. I started to position some of the flowers in different ways to get different visual effects. It seemed like the more I studied the flowers, the more creative I became with them. This was just the tonic I needed. I had never been much of a flower photographer, but enjoyed my visit and I plan on making more trips to the flower garden to watch them as the seasons turn.



We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and look forward going where we can be by ourselves while the pandemic rages and together when it has finally been resolved.

inFocus

The Newsletter of the
Westchester Photographic Society

Ron Carran, editor

P.O. Box 14, Brewster, NY 10509

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