



February/March 2018



From my desk (editor@nwphoto.org)

Normally in March (OK it's late February still – picky, picky) I resort to the March lion/lamb thing, but not only is that getting old, I'm seeing **snowfall warnings** for the coast at the end of **February**. Just when you thought it was safe to get on the roads . . . Apparently blooming daffodils and removing snow tires have no relationship whatsoever.

Everyone joins clubs/organizations for different reasons. Many of us start(ed) by wanting to learn more. We get fun social contact (I've met some of my closest friends via camera clubs) feedback, ideas of different places to go to take pictures, inspiration from speakers and fellow club-member photographers, tips, workshops, instruction . . . And when you get where you feel more confident, and are getting lots of accepted images, that's when sharing with the group and helping to pass on your knowledge feels good.

I know that sometimes people feel their photos should be “winning” more, or scoring higher, and maybe they should. Our “judges” are not experts. We're all learning together. (And even the “experienced” evaluators disagree at times.) If you feel our judges are overlooking something, perhaps talk to the Program person and offer to put on a program on photo evaluation. Or write an article for the newsletter, pointing out what makes a “good” photograph. We can always learn, right?

Remember, program and outing suggestions are always welcome. Refer to our website for the appropriate email address for contact information.

Program (program@nwphoto.org)

February 27: Up Close and Personal – An Overview of Macro Photography

This meeting will be a presentation by Eric Massarelli (DSLR macro) and Nancy Matheson (compact camera or cellphone macros). We all love those amazing close-up views, but they can be tricky. Be sure to check out this program to learn more tricks on simple to more complex ways to capture those sometimes amazing little subjects.

Also, we will see the Top 10 from the theme “Composition: Triangles”.

March 6: It's a workshop! – Up Close and Personal – this is your chance to practice what you learned last meeting – or if you missed last meeting, come anyway and give it a try! Bring your camera, tripod and any equipment you think you might need.

Also, we will collect prints for the Crescent Beach Black and White competition (more information this issue)

Upcoming Outings (outings@nwphoto.org)

Remember, these are more important than other things on your calendar. They help keep you balanced and sane, right? Take photos – yeah!

March 11

Traboulay Trail Photowalk. Enjoy part of the Traboulay trail in Port Coquitlam, past the CPR freight and repair yard, Pitt River Bridge and other river-based industry, Peace Park and the Citadel Landing boardwalk . . . river views, birds . . . absolutely something for everyone.

Meet in the parking lot on Argue Street (just south of the Mary Hill Bypass and Shaughnessy Street) **between 9:00 and 9:30.** (And my calendar says that's the **first day** of **Daylight Savings Time** so **don't be an hour late!**)

Lots more information on the website, including transit directions.

April 28

A really early (pre-crowds) trip to the Abbotsford Tulip Festival. Yes, 7 AM but so worth it for the early shooting opportunity. The venue opens to the public at 9 AM so this will give you a good chance to take photos without crowds. And if you like the people aspect, just stay around. Dress for wet conditions; the fields can have big puddles and slippery mud. More information TBA.



Past Outings

Judging by the photos posted on our website and on some Facebook pages, the Vancouver Chinese Lantern Festival outing on January 14 had plenty to offer. Have a browse at the photos on the website, if you missed the outing (and even if you didn't). They are amazing.

The long-exposure morning photowalk scheduled for February 17 was cancelled by mutual agreement that morning, as the weather was not going to work for it.

Two of 30 images found on our website from the Lantern Festival outing:



Dragon Detail © Karen J.



Honey Bee © Garfield J.

*Outing reports are **always** welcome! – please feel free to send me a summary any time – Ed.*

Crescent Beach Black and White Print Competition

(competitions@nwphoto.org)

We have been participating in this Invitational challenge for some time, and it's an interesting one. We may enter 6 prints from our club and each of us may submit up to two (2) prints. We have some good black and white photographers in the club, so here's your chance!

Here are the important **deadlines**:

March 3: You must upload a jpg via the club's dropbox link (log in first!) of each print you intend to enter. **Note the dimensions:** Max. 1400 pixels wide and maximum height 1050 pixels. This is different from our normal club sizing. Title your file: Your Name_IMAGE TITLE.jpg

March 6 club meeting: Bring in your black and white prints, ready to go.

- Black and white prints only. No tinting or toning. No colour. (Specify that to your processor!)
- Subject is open.
- All prints to be mounted on a 16"x20" backing, **firmly attached**.
- Except for 16x20" prints, all prints must be matted in black or white.
- Minimum print size is 8x10; maximum is 16x20. No script on print or mat.
- Please protect your print with a plastic sleeve. (We will label)
- Images must not have won or placed in prior competitions.
- If you belong to more than one club, you may enter via **only one club**.
- Prints may be any shape but "photographic" framing must be black or white.

The **prints** will be judged, but the jpg images will be projected to the audience. Make sure they are the same or the comments will not make sense. They must also be the same title.

!! Be sure to read the **competition guide** on the website (Activities/Competitions/More...) **and** the official rules on the Crescent Beach website [here](#).

March 3 – **coming up fast!**

The actual judging night will be **April 21** at St. Mark's Church Hall, 12953 20th Avenue, Surrey. \$10 to get in which includes door prizes and refreshments. Doors open at 6:30 PM; judging at 7:00 PM.



Themes (themes@nwphoto.org)

Open Theme

The soon to close theme is "Conceptual Photography – LOVE". When I say "soon to close" I mean this is a short month, so **February 28** is the deadline. Just a few more days to come up with an image that will say "love".

Watch for a new theme coming up on March 1.



Theme Results

There were some amazing interpretations for the recently completed theme “Composition: Triangles”. Here are a few that just happen to be black and white. Weren’t we just talking about black and white?



Geometric Design in Architecture
© Tim S.



Shadow Play © Brenda F.



Waiting © Michael D.

Spoiler alert! Spoiler alert!

Of course you know the top 3 placing images in the Triangles theme, but the top 10 won't be shown until the February 27 meeting, a few days away. Here is the list, and if you don't want to know, just scroll past:

Composition: Triangles (43 images, 18 votes, 162 comments, top commenter: Michael D.

Title	Photographer	Ranking (score)
How Many Triangles can You Find	Harry T.	1 st (29)
Downstairs	Shona L.	2 nd (28)
Switching	Nancy M.	3 rd (25)
Geometric Design in Architecture	Tim S.	4 th (22)
Full Sail at Dusk	Karen J.	5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th (tie)
Rainbow Mountain	Kate L.	5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th (tie)
Life is Golden	Harry T.	5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th (tie)
Louvre Through the Pyramid	Debi N.	5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th (tie)
Industrial	Shona L.	9 th
Lonely in the park	Janet P.	10 th (tie)
Waiting	Michael D.	10 th (tie)
Parliamentarian Triangles	Rick L.	10 th (tie)



Rainbow Mountain © Kate L.

And we have another winner, folks!

At the 2017 Christmas dinner for the New Westminster Horticultural Centre, the awards were given out for the four photography categories. Our club member Brenda F. won first in the "Visitors In the Garden", second in "Garden Colour - White", third in the "Macro Image" and first and third in the "NWHS Garden View"!! Mega congrats, Brenda for some great photos.



Some Food for Thought (Shona L., Editor)

Commenting, critiquing, scoring, judging, evaluating, juring . . . one thing we all feel within these variations is that the judges are wrong unless our own image scores in the top 3. (Joke – but just a bit).

Assigning points to photographs is ridiculously challenging. Evaluating **any** art is challenging. Art is designed to communicate – to “speak” to us, yet in training our evaluators, we emphasize that they are not to consider their personal bias. Yet how can art speak to our emotions if we don’t allow ourselves to be touched by it? I actually think that we don’t want anyone to be biased **against** the work, but it’s ok to “like” or “love” it. We’re all happy when someone says “I like your jacket” or “I loved that black and white you had in the competition.”

However, in formal evaluating, we try to discourage terms like “like” because it talks about the evaluator and not the photograph. I have given examples in the past, so won’t go into this again. But I think when we say “like”, do we really mean that the image has touched us, reached us, affected us, inspired us . . . or that it’s our favourite style (bias), colour (bias), subject (bias), technique (bias). . . ??

I sometimes think that’s why a lot of the photos entered in competitions are variations on a theme: perfectly exposed and sharp photos of birds on a stick, portraits of wrinkled people in poorer countries sitting against colourful doorways, misty/moody landscapes and the like . . . and why we don’t see as much street photography, abstracts or basically “statement” vs. “decorative” art. We think that some of the judges might not “like” that sort of image. It’s harder to interpret than a misty tree on a hill.

Mr. Val Cameron, a film-maker, 3D artist and instructor, has recently stated on a Facebook page he administers (taken totally without permission off Facebook):

“I see lots of comments on art, where the eye of the beholder doesn't respect the choice of objects/subjects and/or story or other elements, including but not limited to sexual preference. It's not about liking it, if you don't--but we HAVE to respect the choices of the artist. As artists, that's our freedom of creation, and negative comments have NO place in that department.

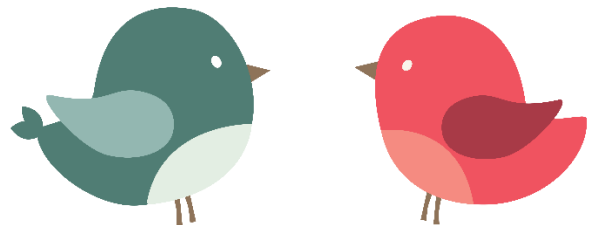
What we all can and should comment on, is the artistic side of the art, lighting, posing, camera, materials and so forth. When commenting on other's work, always start by talking about the positive. Then, add constructive critique without being sarcastic or pushing your own dislike about a certain topic.

If your comment does not CONTRIBUTE . . . then leave your comment out.”

I don’t see too many, if any, *subject* bias comments in our own work, but sometimes the “constructive critique” can get a little sharp. . .

Recently, in a completely different, non-art group, a member had a complaint about not receiving assistance from the members with a problem he had posted. The President responded saying this person “could” have done this and “should” have done that. Although a couple of people in on the conversation found the President’s comments were fine, the complainant (for lack of a better word) quit the group, quite offended at being made to feel he was an idiot. Do we sometimes do this in our comments? If the President had said, “Did you try . . . ?” or “Sometimes I have success doing . . . “ , would that have given the member the benefit of the doubt – and sounded more helpful?

Food for thought.





Get out those calendars!

February 27 – Club meeting: Up Close and Personal – an overview of macro photography.

February 28 – Last day to submit images for the current theme.

March 1 – 31 – Gabor Gasztonyi exhibit of portraits at the Plaskett Gallery at Massey Theatre, 735 Eighth Avenue in New Westminster. **Opening March 3** 1 PM to 4 PM.

March 3 is the deadline to upload the digital versions of the (up to 2) black and white prints you intend to submit for consideration for the Crescent Beach Black and White Print Invitational.

March 6 – Club meeting: Practice your macro photography. Bring your camera and tripod. There will be subjects/stations set up for practice. **Also** bring your black and white prints, all mounted and matted, for Crescent Beach. (article in this issue)

March 11 – Club outing photowalk. Infinite subject possibilities in any weather.

March 17 is the actual judging of the North Shore Challenge. Kay Meek Centre for the Performing Arts in West Vancouver. 7 PM. Tickets available from the Kay Meek Box Office.

April 28 – club outing to tiptoe through the tulips in Abbotsford.

And looking ahead a bit:

May 12: Fraser Valley Invitational judging, Clayton Heights Secondary, 7003 188 Street, Surrey, 7:30. Tickets \$18 or \$20 at the door. Theme is “Connections”, which they define as “relationships in which a person, thing or idea is linked with something else”.

Do you know about an event or photo opportunity? Contact any executive member to post on our Announcements page. And do check the page yourself for up-to-date events.



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