



FOCUS

Editor: Judy Edwards

February, 2013

ERWIN BOHMFALK VISITS CCC IN JANUARY

Dr. Bohmfalk began photography in high school and has been taking pictures for over 70 years of his interesting and adventurous life, which has included a stint as an Army pilot in WWII, a Ph.D. in Chemistry, working for DuPont, starting the Purple Foot restaurant in Waynesboro, twenty-two years as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Wildlife Center, and a leader of photo and viewing safaris all over the world. Over the years he has been to all seven continents. His favorite parts of the world are the Poles, and he was able to share many images from both the North and the South poles during his visit to CCC.



Erwin Bohmfalk shows 1925 photo of his family with Model T Ford. Photo by Dave Lyster

Erwin has never taken a course in photography, but rather learned through experience. Although he insisted that most of his photography is "grab shooting," he interspersed

informational and travel photos with some magnificently beautiful shots, all perfectly composed, in beautiful light, and focused! The first photo he showed us was a picture of him as a one-year-old, taken in 1925. He and his parents were ready to climb into a Model T Ford to travel over a pass on Fall River Road in Colorado. He said the photo was taken with a Brownie camera.

The presentation shared his experiences with photography during the war, trips he has taken to several continents and the poles, and photographing a book on birds of South Africa.

In 1992 he was involved with a group that chartered a nuclear Russian ice breaker that was able to take them through the Bering Strait, and visit several parts of Russia. One of my favorite photos was of some of the Russian crew swimming, sans suits or protective gear, around a small floating slab of ice, and toasting each other with champagne in fancy glasses while they were as directly over the North Pole as they could figure.

We were very lucky to be there to hear about some of his adventures; I am sure most of us walked away wondering if we could invite him back soon, to learn about more of his experiences.

MEETING INFORMATION

CAMERA CLUB MEETINGS: 2ND Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Dinner before meeting at 5:00 pm. Assigned, Open, and Creative Digital and Print entries as announced. Each month, all entries in the *Creative* category will be projected and all entries in the *Open* category will be displayed as prints. Assigned entries will alternate as noted below.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14 (HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!)

ASSIGNMENT: LESS IS MORE
PRINT

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

ASSIGNMENT: GENERATIONS
PROJECTION

*You will receive two points for each entry in the Assigned topic, and one point for entries in the Open and Creative categories. **You may submit only ONE (1) entry per category.***

LESS IS MORE: This is a theme about minimalism--the art of sparseness and purity. Winning photos will reveal the beauty of a subject stripped down to its most basic form and context. Your goal will be to capture the essence of something, to express the best aspects of a subject with minimum content and maximum simplicity--a single leaf floating on a pond, a small child in a large and empty room, a footprint in the sand.

GENERATIONS: When we think of photographing generations, beautiful images of large wrinkled hands cupping baby-soft infant hands may first come to mind. While people are a great subject for this assignment, feel free to explore other types of generational juxtapositions as well. Consider an old \$1 bill next to a new \$1 coin, a classic book next to an electronic reader, or a sparkling new building replacing a crumbling structure.

VICTORIA DYE FIRST JUDGE OF 2013

Local photographer Victoria Dye judged the January theme of Celebrations. Victoria is a familiar face at CCC, and has judged and presented programs several times. She handled the 56 entries concisely and efficiently, although she is clearly more comfortable with fine art nature, and animal photography.



Victoria in April, 2012. Photo by Dave Lyster

Victoria is a well-known resource for photographers in the Charlottesville area. She is a small animal veterinarian who found her artistic vision and passion through photography, and she has a variety of classes and workshops available.

Photography classes include beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Subjects include nature, wildlife, portrait, night, action, composition, street, macro, and pet photography. Computer classes covering organization and editing techniques are offered for Lightroom, Photoshop and Nik software. Classes are taught as groups or privately. She also offers day, weekend and week-long workshops as well as designing a class customized for your level, a small group or for a business. See her website at <http://victoriasimages.com/index.php>

**AWARDS FOR COMPETITION:
JUDGE: VICTORIA DYE
ASSIGNED TOPIC: CELEBRATIONS**

**COLOR AND/OR MONOCHROME PRINTS &
CREATIVE**

<u>ASSIGNED A</u>		<u>ASSIGNED B</u>	
1	Deb Snelson		Toni Zappone
2	Gerry Bishop		Mariah Dean
3	Jim Marshall		Liz Marshall
HM	Theresa White		
<u>OPEN A</u>		<u>OPEN B</u>	
1	Gary Powell		Leonard Winslow
2	Anne Scott		Larry Bouterie
3	Steve Botts		
HM	Jim Fergus		
<u>CREATIVE</u>			
1	Jim Demas		
2	Jim Sullivan		
3	Jim Marshall		
HM	Rob Fehnel		

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA PHOTOGRAPHER
TUAN PHAM TO PRESENT PROGRAM**

Our presenter for February, Tuan Pham, arrived in the US the day President Richard Nixon resigned. After his studies at UMD in College Park, he worked in banking and as a mediator; after graduation from Leadership Montgomery, he served two Maryland governors as an unpaid commissioner.

Tuan bought his first camera and joined NVPS in 2005. By 2010 he had won numerous ribbons, and had more images juried in the Meadowlark Photography Expo in Northern VA that year than most participating artists. He lucked out again in 2012, with the most images juried in the Joe Miller Photographic Art Center's Second Annual Abstract Exhibition. Tuan's approach to photography was the subject of an article in *Elan* Magazine, December, 2012, called "The Art of Seeing."

As a photographer, Tuan likes to take pictures the easy way, not having to climb mountains or wake up before sunrise. He opens his eye and

heart to everyday subjects and draws immense joy from them, with or without the camera. He receives inspiration from the works of impressionist painters and the teachings of Buddhist ancestors on "wise attention." Now retired, Tuan lives in Annandale, VA, close to his twelve grandchildren.

Tuan's program, titled "*Photos of Nothing*," is about a visual adventure born out of deep disappointment. He writes that, "The disappointment soon gives way to surprises, amazement, and equally deep insights. The subject matters conventionally deemed insubstantial and insignificant begin to reveal their freshness and other hidden attributes. Each photo opportunity bears witness to a deep connection between the photographer and his subjects. The adventure suddenly (becomes) a proving ground for the eye to learn to see nature in the unprejudiced way, and for the artist within to come out and play, without the overshadow of the glamour of tools and techniques, and the internal critic.

"The presentation begins with a quick visit to the birthplace of creativity, to be followed by the presenter's account of his journey--his activities on the ground and on the bus, his discovery of the beauty of the ordinary, and the invaluable insights on seeing. The presentation closes with a slideshow of 40 images of visual poetry and graphic metaphors that reveal the photographer's artistic personality. The presentation will end with a Q & A period."

**JERRY COULTER WILL BE FEBRUARY'S
JUDGE**

In October, 2011, artist" Jerry Coulter was an excellent judge for CCC. A retired professor of art at JMU, Jerry looked more at the general balance, composition, space, color and light that he envisions as a painter, and less of the photographer's specific craft of light, exposure, tonal range, horizons, etc. that fellow photographers include when they judge, according to their standards. He specifically

mentioned geometry and patterns complimenting each other, that warm colors advance and cool colors recede, the importance of being able to identify the main subject, and the path the viewer's eyes take as they move through an image. He mentioned that several of the entered images were too simple, and didn't include enough information to interest the viewer. It will be interesting to see what he thinks about our February topic of "*Less is More.*"



Jerry Coulter in October, 2011. Photo by Dave Lyster

From an early age, Jerry enjoyed expressing himself through drawing and painting. After graduating from high school, he was drafted into the US Army where he served for two years. When his term was completed, Jerry received the GI Bill and dedicated the benefits towards studying art at Furman University. It was here that he became interested in the figure as a subject for his work. Encouraged by his professors, Jerry received a fellowship at Ohio University where he continued to develop his interest in figure painting and drawing and pursued an increasing interest in non-objective painting. After graduating with an MFA in

painting, he began his career as an art professor and artist.

Jerry taught undergraduate and graduate students for more than 40 years. Although he is now retired, he continues to work in his studio and teach a summer workshop at Orkney Springs, a program he has taught and directed for 26 years.

CCC DUES

Dues must be paid by the March meeting ***at the latest***, in order for you to remain on our list and participate in club activities. However, sooner is better in order for us to get all lists, etc. in order. Please bring to the meeting on Thursday, or mail to:

John W. Hulburt
Treasurer, Charlottesville Camera Club
2274 Garth Road
Charlottesville, VA 22901
Cell: 434-409-3275
Email: jwhcville@comcast.net

Regular - \$45

*****PLEASE NOTE: COUPLES ARE \$80—SORRY FOR THE MIX UP.***

Students through high school - \$10

As a result of teaching figure drawing and painting, most of Jerry's realistic work involves the figure, but he has also created many works that feature non-objective subject matter. As a painter, Jerry's vocabulary is visual form and thus he sees a strong connection, rather than division, between realistic and non-objective subject matter. The subject matter in his work appeals to the viewer on various levels, but his hope is that the viewer responds to the work on an esthetic, as well as an emotional, level by engaging with the various forms represented. It

is Jerry's belief that the forms within the work are the true content of each work

ROB FEHNEL INTRODUCES CCC DISCUSSION FORUM

On Wednesday, January 30, quite a few members of CCC braved the wind and rain to attend a workshop to introduce the *Discussion Forum*, recently added to the CCC website. The attendees were divided between those of us who have had experience with similar forums, and those of us who have had very little experience interacting on a website. Rob was clear and methodical about explaining the procedure. He began with how to log in, and went through how to navigate in the different topics. Rob has obviously spent much time in carefully writing the "how to's," and we are hoping that more people will take advantage of the opportunity to use the forum for either help and education, or to contribute their own knowledge to members.



Some workshop members watching Rob's presentation. Photo taken with Anton's iPad.

Thanks, Rob, for all of the work you put into both the Forum and the workshop.

Rob and Anton Largiadier have both worked hard to make the website something that reflects very well on the club. We all need to put some effort into checking the information posted there, both to cut down on emails, and to be well informed on both speakers and competition topics.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE 2013

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are on Wednesdays at the Northside Library, from 7:00-8:30 pm.

Wednesday, February 27

Topic: Your Favorite Tricks, Tools, and Techniques: Show and tell, open to all to present a trick or two.

WILL BEGIN AT 6:30. SEE DETAILS BELOW.

Tuesday, March 26

Topic: "Get it Sharp!" Tips on how to consistently get perfectly sharp images—and how to apply sharpening afterward for best results. Presented by Gerry Bishop.

Tuesday, April 23

Topic: How to use the Nik Software suite to enhance your photos. Presented by John Hulburt

FAVORITE TOOLS, TRICKS, AND TECHNIQUES: FEBRUARY 27 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS AND TOPICS

- **Jim Sullivan** explains Photoshop warping and masks, which he used to create two of his award-winning competition entries.
- **Debbie Snelson** talks about techniques for getting images of fall foliage that stand out from the ordinary.
- **Jim Marshall** on infra-red photography.
- **Rob Fehnel** demonstrates how to build an easy-to-make and inexpensive table-top studio.
- **Jim Demas** on self-publishing a photo book
- **Gerry Bishop** (if time allows) on how to shoot in the rain

PRESIDENT'S MUSING

By Gordon Putnam

A student walked away dejected for his grade was a lousy C. He had never had a C before. Another student came by him and asked why he was looking so sad. He said he got a C on that test. His friend was flabbergasted. How did you get such a high grade? Nobody got above a D on that test, it was horrible. The student's mood automatically changed. He no longer saw himself at the bottom of the class but above average.

Evaluating anything is difficult. Whose photo is the best when we gather on the second Thursday of each month? Sometimes it is so obvious it is not a contest. Other times it's hard to figure out which one is the best because they are all really excellent.

The executive board has been talking about changing how we judge the photos. How is it that we can give each person a better evaluation of their photo? Go to our Forum and join the discussion about judging.

To find the discussion go to the web page and click on *"Discussion Forum"* at the top left of the page; register if you have not. The library will come up; then go to the *"Monthly Meetings and Related"* folder. In that folder click on *"Competition Format"* and you will be able to read the ideas from others in the club and add your own.

Talking about the Forum, the workshop we had last month was excellent. Rob Fehnel did a really good job. The Forum is developing and can go where we want it to go. Give it a try, you may be surprised what you will find there.

We will keep you informed and welcome your opinion through the Forum or any other way.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

January 10, 2013 The January 10, 2013 meeting of the Charlottesville Camera Club was called to order at 6:30PM by President Gordon Putnam. The Treasurer, John Hulbert, reported that at the end of 2012 the club had 86 paid members and the treasury balance was \$2995. He issued a reminder that it was time to pay dues for 2013. Jim Simmons introduced a visitor, Doug Webic. Gerry Bishop reviewed upcoming workshops: Jan 30 Robert Fehnel would give a presentation on the website and forums at the Northside Library at 7PM - please bring your laptop; and on Feb 27 a lecture series on favorite tools and tricks would be given starting at 7PM at the Library Northside. Gerry is looking for additional volunteer presenters. Anton Largiader is offering a workshop outside of the two mentioned above if there is enough interest. Interested members should go to the forums to express an interest. Jim Fergus reviewed the status of the Survey saying he would be sending out an email on it shortly for members who have not yet responded. Because the scoring system may have been contrary to what would normally be expected, he asked that members who have already voted go back to the survey and edit responses if necessary. A plea was sent out to increase the number of images submitted to competitions from "B" photographers. It was suggested that those "B" photographers could check out the mentors from the club for additional help if desired. If anyone is not registered to upload images to PhotoContestPro, please contact Gerry Bishop to be registered. Awards for end-of-year competitions were given out. Best Projected Image award was given to Gerry Bishop. Best Print of 2012 award was given to Jim Sullivan. Photographer of the Year was given to the "B" Photographer David Katz, and to "A" photographers Gerry Bishop and Jim Marshall (a tie). The Shyan Award was presented to Lydia Handsfield. Jim Fergus introduced our January judge, Victoria Dye. We were treated to an excellent presentation by Dr. Erwin Bohmfalk.
Submitted by Deb Snelson, Secretary

WINNERS' GALLERY
FEBRUARY, 2013
TOPIC: CELEBRATIONS



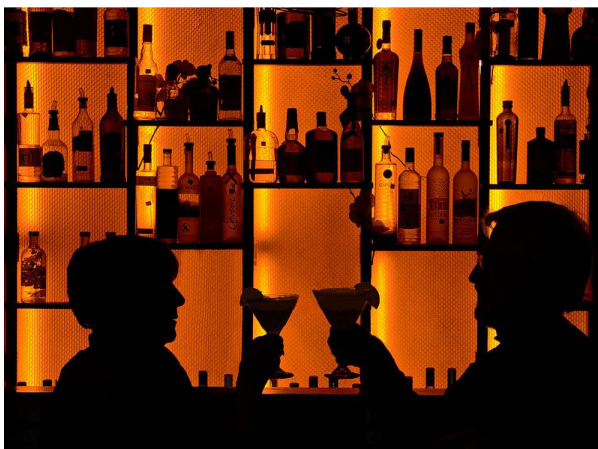
1st Assigned A, Deb Snelson, "The Christmas Birthday"



3rd Assigned A, Jim Marshall, "Anniversary"



HM Assigned A, Theresa White, "Celebrate Dance"



2nd Assigned A, Gerry Bishop, "A Toast"



1st Assigned B, Toni Zappone, "Celebrate the Fizz"



2nd Assigned B, Mariah Dean, "Clowns at Christmas"



2nd Open A, Anne Scott, "Christmas in DC"



3rd Assigned B, Liz Marshall, "Something Borrowed, Something Blew"



3rd Open A, Steve Botts, "Reflection of Mill Building"



1st Open A, Gary Powell, "Opalescent Nudibranch"



HM Open A, Jim Fergus, "Into the Woods"



1st Open B, Leonard Winslow, "Three Rivers"



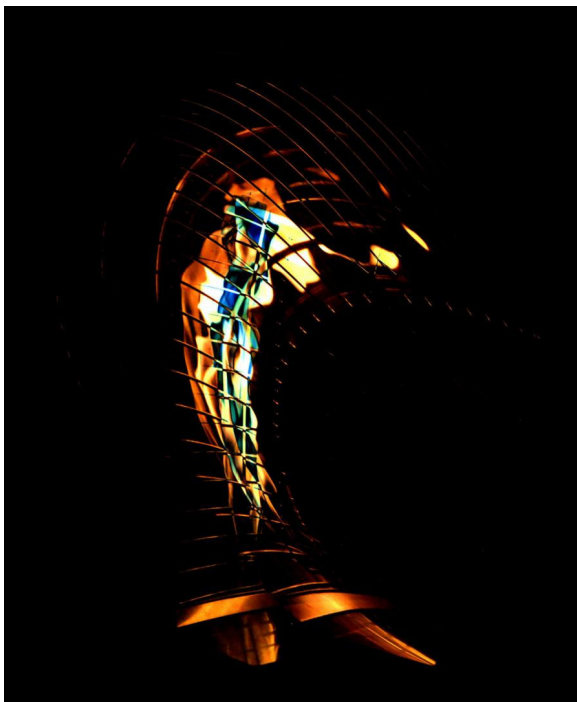
2nd Creative, Jim Sullivan, "Thousand-Year-Old Eggs"



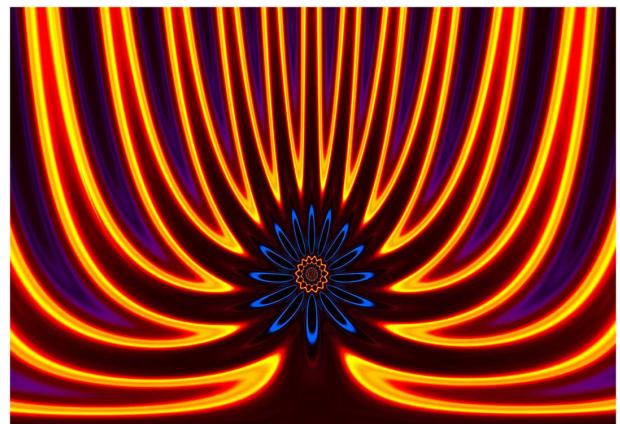
2nd Open B, Larry Bouterie, "SS Chilhuly, Seattle"



3rd Creative, Jim Marshall, "Christmas Tree"



1st Creative, Jim Demas, "Trapped Flame"



HM Creative, Rob Fehnel, "Gas Flame"

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

THE THIRD ANNUAL JOSEPH MILLER ABSTRACT EXHIBIT entries will be accepted starting December 29, 2012, and the deadline for submission of entries will be February 27, 2013. As in the two previous Annual Abstract Exhibits, the Third Exhibit will be an outstanding example of photography as art and should not be missed by serious photographers.

Further information, including a definition of abstract as well as a calendar of important dates can be found on the NVACC.org website at: http://www.nvacc.org/Abstract_Exhibit.html

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE GARDEN: Join Fine Arts Photographer John Hulburt on June 22, in the gardens at the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants for an introduction to digital photography in the garden. Bring your

own digital camera (or even your smart phone!) and learn the basics of photographing flowers and gardens. Topics covered will include seeing the light, close-up and macro techniques, pleasing compositional guidelines and more. 9:30 am, Tufton Farm; cost is \$15

The maximum number of participants is 20. If there is enough interest from your Camera Club, we could discuss the possibility of hosting a special version of the workshop exclusively for your group. I would have to talk to John Hulburt to see if he would be available for this, and we would have to figure out the logistics, but the price per person and workshop details would be the same. Let me know! Otherwise, please feel free to sign up for the existing workshop on June 22, we certainly want a full house! Stay tuned to see how to register.

CCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS:

President: Gordon Putnam: gp4d@virginia.edu 540-949-5775

Vice-President: Jim Fergus: fergusjim@gmail.com 434-245-1142

Secretary: Deb Snelson debbiesnelson@gmail.com 434-990-1150

Treasurer: John Hulburt: jwhcville@comcast.net 434-409-3275

Past President: Jim Simmons: jimw-simmons@comcast.net 434-293-4185

FOCUS Editor: Judy Edwards: juded@comcast.net 434-295-9257

New Member Information: Rick Seaman rickseaman@hotmail.com 434-973-8753

Webmaster: Anton Largiader anton@largiader.com 434-295-0496

Education/Workshops: Gerry Bishop gbishop60@comcast.net 434-973-8340

CCC Website: www.cvillecameraclub.org

(The Charlottesville Camera Club is an organization that fosters photography as an art, a hobby, or a vocation, by instruction and by sharing of knowledge and experience. Membership is open to anyone interested in photography. The club is not associated with any other organization or venue.)