



e-News

September 2021

Editor's Note

Welcome back to the PGNS 2021-2022 season. I hope you had a great summer and made the most of the photographic opportunities offered to us here in Atlantic Canada....and beyond, if you happened to venture outside our bubble.

The Executive has been busy planning an exciting program for 2021-2022. You can view the full year's schedule on the PGNS website: <https://www.photoguild.ns.ca/schedule/> A reminder of September's program is featured in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Nanciellen Davis for her contribution to 'Member to Member News' with her essay entitled, The Histories of Photography. This feature of the newsletter is comprised of news items PGNS members would like to share with other members. Please see details on page 7 if you'd like to contribute to 'Member to Member News'.

Since this is a newsletter about photography, it should contain at least one photo. 'Photo of the Month' is a feature in which I enthusiastically invite our members to participate and showcase their images. Please see details in the 'Photo of the Month' section on page 8.

The following corrections have been made to the PGNS Trophy and Awards Presentation 2021: the Tim Randall Trophy to Victoria Gaul (1st Place Silver Medal) and the Nova Scotia Bird Society Trophy to Katherine Gartner-Kepkay.

I'm open to any feedback that will help improve the newsletter, so please send suggestions, gripes, queries and/or kudos my way.

Thanks for your support.

Kathy Gartner-Kepkay, Editor

President's Message

Dear photographer friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer. As usual, this summer flew by so fast – and while we could not travel to out of province locations until recently, we had the “luxury” of short local trips (or staycations) to enjoy our beautiful province. I trust you managed to get some wonderful images during the last few months.

We had a successful season last year despite the pandemic and the restrictions in our province and around the world. Thanks to all of you who helped making it possible. Without our dedicated

volunteers, the Guild would not be able to operate. Thanks to Joyce Chew, Viki Gaul, Fred Greene, Darry Robertson, Pam Mills, Esther Theriault, Bill Murphy, Terry Carrol and Pat Walls. And thanks to all of you who competed with your images through the competition season. We have new executive team members – Katherine Kepkay, Rosemary Sampson, France Boutilier and Antonio Solis. Welcome to the team! I am looking forward to working with you during the coming season.

I am hoping that the new season will be as good as the last one. The Executive has been working through the summer to make sure that can happen. Our Program Chair, Fred Greene, has produced yet another promising program for the 2021-22 season. You can view or download the program from our website: <https://www.photoguild.ns.ca>

The Museum of Natural History is opening up the auditorium for meetings, but with social distancing and limited attendance. The Executive decided to keep the meetings online until December 2021 – we will review the situation in a couple of months and will decide at that time whether we'll resume the in-person meetings at the museum or keeping the meetings online for the rest of the season.

There will be a number of changes this season. We will have the list of changes available on our 'Members Only' page. Additionally, you can view the list of changes below.

We have a number of field trips scheduled for this season, but we decided to have many more – with your help. If you know a certain location well and want to photograph it with a few of our members, you can contact our Field Trip Coordinator (Dean Hirtle: deanhirtle@ns.sympatico.ca) and get things rolling. Note, that waivers will be needed, and the field trip leader and all participants must follow the PGNS Field Trip Safety Measures at all times.

Our PGNS logo is looking a little dated. If you have graphic designer background or have an idea for a new, fresh logo, please do not hesitate to contact us with your design. The new logo would need to be usable in B&W and in colour and it would need to be sizable to be able to print it at any size. We are looking forward to seeing your designs!

If you would like to get involved and want to help our team, please contact me or another executive member. Your help will be appreciated and while doing it, you'll have a more enjoyable Guild experience with us.

I trust we will see you on our opening night and at most of our meetings this coming year. Wishing you a wonderful photographic season,
Laszlo Podor, President

Changes to our program

Competition Scoring Changes

1. The **Distinction Points** are discontinued in the 2021-22 season
2. The scoring system will be changed from 2-5 to 4-10 with half points. This system is being used by CAPA and we had two competitions during the last season with CAPA judges, using the 4-10 with half point system.
3. **Honours/Merit Awards Certificates** are retained for 2021-22 and we will review it at the end of the season to determine if there is merit in keeping these certificates.
Three levels of certificates will be awarded:
 - **Honourable Mention Certificates** will be awarded to images receiving 26 points up to 27.5 points.
 - **Merit Certificates** will be awarded to images receiving 28 and 28.5 points.
 - **Honour Certificates** will be awarded to images receiving 29, 29.5 or 30 points.
4. To make sure that the Silent Essay and Sight & Sound Essay scores represent the same weight in the PoY totals as before, we will use a multiplication factor of 1.5 for both essay scores when adding them to the PoY cumulative score. So, if the maker received 70 points for the Sight & Sound Essay and 26 points for the Silent Essay, $(70 \times 1.5) + (26 \times 1.5) = 142.5$ points will be added to their PoY totals.

Sight & Sound Essay Changes

As both CAPA and PSA allows video footage in their Audio-Visual Essay contests, we decided to do the same.

1. Starting in the 2021-22 season, the Sight & Sound Essays may include a maximum of 20% video clips. As the maximum duration of the essay is 5 minutes, this means that the maker can incorporate a total of one minute video in the essay. Including video clips is not required. See the Audio-Visual Contest Rules below.
2. An essay can receive a maximum of 100 points – max. 10 points for each element listed in the CAPA/PSA AV guidelines (see them on our 'Members only' page).

Audio-Visual Contest Rules:

- Essays can have a **maximum running time** of no more than five (5) minutes.
- It is strongly recommended that the essay include a title image. The essay must not include the maker's name.
- The first and the last image must be black and displayed for 3 seconds.
- The end of the essay should contain credits (e.g. music) but must not include the name of the maker.
- There are **no restrictions on special effects**.
- **Video clips** can make up no more than 20% of total time of the show.
- **Photos or art not made by the entrant** (for example, photos of historical persons, photos of the earth from space, historical photos of buildings or maps, etc., needed to tell the story) can comprise no more than 10% of the show.
- Maximum (and recommended) show **size** is 1920 x 1080 **resolution** (Full HD **video**).
- **File format** must be MP4.
- The **entrant's name** may not appear in any way that is obvious to the judging panel.

Blue Book Changes

The above changes will be added to our Blue Book as needed. Two additional changes will be added to the general section of Projected Image Competition Categories (#12) as follows:

All components of the submitted image are their original work.

The Executive retains the right to remove sexually explicit images of humans from judging and showing.

Ad-hoc Field Trips

We are introducing Ad-Hoc Field trips. If a member is planning a shoot at a particular location and willing to lead other members to the shooting location, they can make it an PGNS field trip by contacting our Field Trip Coordinator and inviting other members to the trip. Participants need to sign the waiver and follow the PGNS Field Trip Safety Measures at all times.



PSA News

Time is fast approaching for the 2021-22 competition season. I will be signing the club up for the various competitions offered by PSA which include, Open (PID), Creative, Nature, Photojournalism and Travel. Remember that after each of the 3 "Guild/PSA" competitions, the 6 highest scoring images are sent away to represent PGNS in what we call 'PSA Interclub'.

I know the next few weeks will be filled with harvesting, day trips, visiting, last minute camping, etc., while we all strive to complete our summer 'bucket-lists', and so I want you to remember to take your cameras along, get some great photos, post-process and put them where you can find them. I have a folder started and I happen to know a few other members have already done the same. This certainly alleviates the pressure of searching for images for the various deadlines ahead.

The PSA Photo Festival being held in South Dakota in October is still a 'go'. The contingent that usually attends from this area will not be going this year, but we will all be looking ahead to the 2022 Festival announcements.

Congratulations to each and every participant in last year's competitions, held on-line for the first time ever. I have yet to send out ribbons from this past year and will do that the first of September. I wanted to wait till they were all in, before proceeding.

We certainly learned a lot from our 'on-line/webinar' experiences, and we hope that the learning curve will be downhill instead of uphill this year.

If anyone has questions about PSA individual membership or any subject related to PSA, please don't hesitate to contact me: psa@photoguild.ns.ca

Thank you and best wishes to all.

Viki Gaul, PSA Club Rep



CAPA News

What a difference a couple of months makes! We are almost at the end of our long Covid marathon, so hopefully you have been able to get out and about this summer and do some photography.

As competitions are still online, the upload deadline will still be 14 days before the club "competition" meeting. **September 19** will be the PGNS upload Fall CAPA Interclub competition where we will be selecting images to go away to represent our club in 4 broad categories: Open, Nature, Nature – Botany and Smartphone/Tablet.

It is important to note that **CAPA's definitions and eligibility criteria can be different from PSA so please take note of the following differences.**

For all CAPA competition Categories:

Horizontal images must be **exactly 1400 pixels wide.**

Vertical images must be **exactly 1050 pixels high.**

Otherwise, the image **will not load on CAPA's upload page.**

CAPA requires that all portions of the image must be captured by the maker. This includes any textures or filters that you use for brushes.

It is equally important to pay attention to the different editing requirements as CAPA will disqualify images that do not meet the criteria. They are being very diligent in ensuring that there is a fair playing field for all and that everyone is obeying the rules. There were many instances of disqualified club and individual images last year with no chance to submit a replacement image. Do not submit images in categories if you cannot/are unwilling to meet CAPA's eligibility requirements.

Ineligible images include:

- Submitting an image or substantially the same image which has previously been recognized as receiving a CAPA award.
- Entering an identical or simultaneously the same images or one that is substantially the same in both the 'individual' and 'club' components of the same CAPA competition.

The **OPEN category** allows all types of in-camera and post-processing techniques including combining multiple images and elements. All portions of the image must have been taken by the maker. CAPA is looking for the following subject material: Close-up, Person(s), Natural Landscape, Man-made Structures/Objects) and Animals/Birds.

The remaining categories have **Restricted Editing**.

Images selected to go away will have to provide the original untouched JPEG or RAW file. These images will be subjected to CAPA's Image Verification Process. Many images were disqualified last year, when CAPA's Director of Competitions did not receive the requested file. After verification, CAPA deletes the files.

A DNG (except in the case of Pentax) and a PSD file are not recognized as an original file.

In the **Nature (except Wildlife)** subcategories, '**Hand-of-man**' elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral part of the nature story (10% or less of total image area). In Wildlife, no "hand of man" is permitted.

The following are what CAPA considers examples of "Hand of Man":

1. Human – body or portions thereof.
2. Sky – cables, telephone/power lines, jet streams, aircraft, light pollution, artificial light, etc...
3. Land – man-made structures or paths, buildings, concrete, man-made stone, telephone poles, fences, posts, sidewalk, domesticated or cultivated plants/food, cut grass, organized or systematic laying out of planted trees, etc...
4. Elements – cut trees or branches or stems, tree stumps, posts, man-made food, objects or background, etc...
5. Sea – boats, ships, piers, docks, posts in the water, etc...

You may submit one image in Nature- Botany and one image in the remaining 4 subcategories: Insects, Reptiles, & Amphibians; Landscape, Nature General; Wildlife.

For Nature, restricted editing is as follows:

Restricted Editing – Techniques that enhance the presentation of the image without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene are permitted – adjustments including tone and contrast, cropping, sharpening, noise reduction, flipping the image, minor cleaning up (e.g. removal of sensor dust or scratches or transparencies/scans, removal of chromatic aberration), HDR, focus stacking and in-camera multiple exposure taken at the same location at the same time (as a continuous sequence – seconds or minutes apart) are permitted provided that they comply with the CAPA's principles of authenticity so that they do not deceive the viewer or misrepresent the reality of nature.

Dodging and burning is permitted on the submitted image. However, the obvious softening or blurring and/or vignetting of the background of an image in post processing is not permitted. Panoramic stitching is not permitted. All allowed adjustments **must appear natural**.

No techniques that add, relocate, clone, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Images can be converted to monochrome. However, infrared images are not permitted.

CAPA has also revised its **Smartphone/Tablet** competition this year and made it subject to **restricted editing**. So, images submitted to the following subcategories must be "Straight shots". **In this competition**

CAPA is looking for: Landscape (may include people, architecture etc); Close-up; Urban Scenery or Architecture; Person(s)). For this category, basic editing including colour enhancement, the use of filters and cropping are acceptable provided any such editing does not affect the authenticity of the image. Very minor elements can be removed from the image, but no elements can be added.

To keep up to date with CAPA, you can read the CAPA newsletters online at: <https://capacanada.ca/capa-newsletters/>

Sadly the 2021 conference in Moncton was cancelled due to the pandemic. However, planning is underway for the next CAPA biannual camera conference which will be held in Quebec in 2023. More details will be forthcoming as they as soon as they are available.

Stay Safe and Happy Creating!

Joyce S. K. Chew, CAPA Club Rep

Member to Member News

The Histories of Photography by Nanciellen Davis

There is no single history of photography, but instead there are histories of the invention and development of photographic equipment and techniques; and histories of how photography has been used in different fields and presented in different genres and by what memorable individuals. Books and the internet provide source material on these histories. For example, Photography, The Groundbreaking Moments by Florian Heine is available in the HRM library system.

There is some documentation of how different regions and cultures have been photographed by local people, as well as by outsiders. However, the writing of regional histories of photography is just beginning; one book that provides information on regional histories of photography is Photography, A Cultural History by Mary Warner Marien.

There are opportunities in Halifax to learn more about the history of photography. The Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS) occasionally offers a history of photography course: <https://www.thescans.org> (see info below)*. This is a popular offering given by Allan Griffiths and early registration is recommended. There is an online history of photography course offered free to PSA individual members: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?sn-education> (go to 'online courses'). This course requires reading a textbook, essay writing and some photographic assignments. Laszlo Podor has completed the course and may be able to answer questions you may have.

For those who want to do their own research on aspects of the history of photography, there are numerous online resources. However, depending on the topic, the material may be sparse and time-consuming to research as it is usually primary information or a single reference rather than an analysis of information. When searching the internet for articles or archival material, be as specific as possible in a search. For example, search for a specific time period, location, and perhaps a specific group or individual.

For those interested in the history of photography in Canada, some archival collections can be viewed online, such as those that focus on First Nations, their cultures and photographers. For example, information on Inuk photographer and artist, Peter Pitseolak, is available online (search peter+pitseolak+photographs). There are 1500 of his photos and negatives held by the Canadian Museum of History. In addition, there is reference to the death in 1951 of Joseph C. Cope, a Mi'kmaq professional photographer:

<https://www.cbu.ca/indigenous-affairs/mikmaq-resource-centre/mikmaw-book-of-days/march/>. One of his photographs is located in the Nova Scotia Museum in Halifax:

<https://novascotia.ca/museum/mikmaq/?section=image&page=&id=198&period=®ion> Finally, for a

discussion of significant photographic work in Canada in the last century, see [A Short History of Photography, 1900-2000](#) by Martha Langford by clicking the following website:

<https://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/finearts/jarislowsky/docs/Langford%20-%20Visual%20Arts%20in%20Canada%20chapter.pdf>

Not all materials of interest may be available online, but they may be looked at in person when that becomes possible again. For example, at the Nova Scotia Archives you may see the compilation of Bob Brooks' [Photographic Portrait of Africville in the 1960s](#).

The photographic histories of certain geographic regions or of individual groups have the potential to go beyond the documentary use of photography if resources are ample enough to allow the comparison of how subjects are presented by photographers for potentially different purposes. Additionally, the history of photography can be much more than a history of mechanical inventions and techniques, but there is plenty of material on that as well if this aspect of photography is what interests you.

Although it is commonplace to say that if you don't know history, you may be doomed to repeat it. In photography it may also be true that studying the past can provide ideas about what might be experimented with today. For example, Robert Frank is largely known for his book, [The Americans](#). Less well known is his later work when he resided in Cape Breton. A sense of his quite personal experimentation can be viewed online in the National Gallery of Art Archives: <https://www.nga.gov/features/robert-frank/new-york-and-nova-scotia-multiple-frames-1971-2005.html>

In short, a study of the history of photography lends insight not only into the past but also to potential directions in photography.

*SCANS is presently offering a 6-week course entitled, [Frameworks for Understanding the History of Photography](#), presented by Alan Griffiths and starting in October. See course details on the SCANS website: <https://www.thescans.org/courses-fall-2021.html>

If you would like to share some news/information with other members such as workshops, courses, exhibitions, books or perhaps a photography-related article you or someone else has written....etc, please send them along to: newsletter@photoguild.ns.ca by September 25th. The next newsletter will be sent out on October 1st. Thanks for your participation.

Guild Program for September: a reminder

Wed. Sept 8: [Season Opener](#)

Executive Update, "Show and Tell"

Sat. Sept 11: [Field Trip](#)

PGNS Photo Walk in the Halifax Public Gardens, 9:30am-noon

Sat. Sept 18: [Field Trip](#)

Macro Photography at Laszlo and Maria Podor's garden, 3pm-5pm

Sun. Sept 19: [Webinar](#)

"Grand Vistas and Intimate Details" presented by Colin Campbell

Sun. Sept 19: [Upload deadline for CAPA competition](#). Evaluation is on Oct.3

Please see details on the PGNS website: <https://www.photoguild.ns.ca/schedule/>

Photo of the Month



I encourage you to take part in 'Photo of the Month' for the October issue.

Please

- Size your image with the dimensions (1400 x 1050).
- Make sure you **copyright** your image.
- Send one photo to: newsletter@photoguild.ns.ca
- Send it by **Sept 28th** for the October 1st newsletter.

Names will be put in a hat and the one chosen at random will have their image published in the next edition. Those not chosen will be kept for another chance to be pulled out of the hat. You can submit a photo each month to increase your chances.

Your participation is very much appreciated.

"Whosoever possesses a camera should never know boredom." -Wayne Gerard Trotman