

# *e-News*

September 2023

## **Editor's Note**

Welcome new and returning members to the 2023/2024 PGNS season.

The Executive has been busy planning an exciting program. 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 the newsletter. Details for each event will be provided closer to the time by email or on the PGNS website. Please stay tuned. This year promises to be great and there's a lot in store: competitions, webinars, field trips and more.

If you have news items, such as presentations, exhibits, books, articles...etc, you'd like to share in 'Events News' and/or photos you'd like to enter for 'Photo of the Month', please pass them along to me at [newsletter@photoguild.ns.ca](mailto:newsletter@photoguild.ns.ca) The information for submitting photos is on the 'Photo of the Month' page. Your participation is always much appreciated.

Cheers for now,

Kathy Gartner-Kepkay, PGNS Newsletter Editor

## President's Message

Dear fellow Photo Guild members,

This summer is almost over, and it brought lots of excitements for many of us, although not necessarily the good way. Since I am living in Nova Scotia, this is the first time the province is as green as it is possible. This summer brought heat and wildfires and then record amount of rain. I am hoping that you did not have much trouble with either the fire or the floodings the rains brought with them and that you managed to capture some amazing images in or away from Nova Scotia.

Our last season was a successful one with many great presentations and field trips. Thanks to all of you who helped making it possible. Without your help, the Guild would not be able to operate. Thanks to Joyce, Viki, Darryl, Dean, Pam, Antonio, Katherine, Rosemary, Bill, Terry B., Terry C., and Pat. And thanks to all of you who competed with your images through the competition season.

I am hoping that this coming season will be even better than the last one. Our program team was working hard during the summer to have yet another great season with many interesting webinars and field trips. Naturally, the usual competitions are scheduled as well. The program is posted on our website - <https://www.photoguild.ns.ca/schedule/>. You can download the schedule to your calendar, or you can print it out.

We do have several field trips scheduled for 2023-24, but if you'd like to lead one to an area you know, please contact Dean or any of the Executive team – we'd like to hear from you.

Our meetings are still held online, as per our Executive team's decision earlier this year. We will review this decision before the end of 2023, and we will update you if anything changes.

We made a change how we apply the Sight & Sound Essay scores to the PoY cumulative points. Last year we averaged the judges' scores and then multiplied it by 1.4 when we added it to the PoY cumulative score. This year, we'll total the three judges' scores, and this total will be the final score for the Sight & Sound Essays. This means that a perfect essay will have 300 points. When posting the Sight & Sound Essay scores to the PoY totals, we'll use a multiplier of 0.4667. This will result a maximum of 140.01 points for the essays, rounding it to one decimal would give us 140 points. I hope it makes sense.

As you most likely heard about it, some artificial intelligence (AI) image generator solutions are available that people can use to generate fictive images, using millions of photographs made by photographers over the last many years. This has stirred many heated discussions in the photography circles and several lawsuits as well. As these solutions are using images created by other photographers, these AI generated images are being disqualified in PSA and CAPA competitions. I believe in the future there will be a new competition category created for AI generated images. Our Executive team has discussed the above and we came up with the following rules we'll apply to all the Guild competitions.

**Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in PGNS competitions:**

1. All components of the submitted image are the makers original work and do not contain elements created or captured by someone else.
2. Use of narrow AI features such as Denoise, Sharpening, Masking, Subject Selection, and Resolution Enhancement of an image's size contained within a post-processing application is permitted provided they comply with the competition category's editing criteria.
3. A generated artificial intelligence (AI) image is not considered to be a photographic image because it was created by an AI system and contains no image captured by the entrant. Therefore, generated AI images will not be accepted into our competitions. The use of Adobe Firefly and similar programs are not allowed.
4. Content-Aware options in Photoshop or other plug-ins are allowed, but not the Photoshop Generative Fill.
5. AI sky replacement is permitted provided that the new sky was captured by the entrant and the competition category allows it.
6. All aspects of the post-processing for the submitted image were undertaken by the maker.
7. Computational photography – as used in cell phones and mirrorless cameras, is allowed if the processing complies with the competition category's editing criteria.
8. For all potential winning images, the Competition Team may require an entrant to provide all the RAW images used in creating an image.

The themes for the 2023-24 season are the followings:

**Guild Assignment #1:** [Perspective \(must be photographed after May 1, 2023\)](#)

**Guild Assignment #2:** [Night \(must be photographed after September 1, 2023\)](#)

**RK. Mann:** [“That’s how the light gets in.” – Leonard Cohen: “Anthem”](#)

**HRM:** [HRM in Autumn](#)

**Nova Scotia Nature Trust:** [Freshwater/Wetlands](#)

**CAPA:** [Music](#)

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



## CAPA News

The sun has finally arrived! I hope you are all able to get out and enjoy the good weather, especially since it has been few and far between this summer.

Competitions are still online and the upload deadline will still be 14 days before the club "competition" meeting. **September 17** will be the PGNS upload Fall CAPA Interclub competition where we will be selecting images to go away to represent our club in 3 broad categories: a) Nature (enter images in the following subthemes- Insects, Reptiles & Amphibians; Landscape; General Nature; Wildlife) b) Nature – Botany and c) traditional **Black & White** with the following subthemes (Person(s); Architecture; Dilapidated; Landscape).

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:**

The **minimum size** for Horizontal images is **exactly 1400 pixels wide.**

The **minimum size** for Vertical images is **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.**
- **AI generated images from text prompts to create a submitted image**

The use of digital frame, pin-line, borders and mats are **NOT** permitted in either category.

Images selected to go away in Nature 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 selected cellphones) 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 are 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 black & white. However, infrared images are not permitted.

Keep your dates open for June 25-27, 2024 for the next CAPA biannual Canadian Photography Conference which will be held in Kelowna, BC. More details will be forthcoming as they as soon as they are available.

See you all at the Season Opener!

Joyce S. K. Chew, PGNS CAPA Club Rep



## PSA News

Good day to you all,

I hope your 2023 summer was filled with interesting happenings, good company, fine food and lots of memories.

I find myself a little dismayed by how fast it happened and the few photos I made in the past couple of months, but I have managed to put together a batch showing, 'What I did last summer', for the opening night. I encourage you all to participate.

The Executive Team has been very busy putting together a wonderful program, acquiring judges for the competitions and all the things that keep the Guild running successfully.

I am in preparation mode to attend the PSA Photo Festival in Williamsburg, Virginia. I am looking forward to seeing lots of old friends from before the Covid break, and to also making new friends at the same time. There is still ample time to make the decision to join us, but registration would need to take place at the festival itself. Here is the URL for the schedule, which includes the lineup of speakers. <https://psa-photo.org/page/photo-festival> (See insert photo of speakers).

As a PSA Member Club, we participate in the Interclub competitions offered by PSA. In the 3 competitions we call Guild/PSA the highest scoring images are sent away as our club entry to compete with other clubs. The 5 categories included are PID open colour, PID open Monochrome, Nature, Photo Travel and Photojournalism. I hope you will all enter images in these categories for the opportunity to represent us as a club.

We are in discussions about Interclub image sizing, and a change made by PSA. Stay tuned for the decision and the announcement by Laszlo.

You might remember that I attended the PSA Photo Gathering in India the first of the year. I will take this opportunity to let you know that there is already a plan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> one. It will be in July of 2024 in Indonesia. It promises to be well planned and well executed. The team is busy getting the program together. I'll keep you posted here in the newsletters and at meetings.

As the person in charge of all Canadian PSA Memberships I encourage you to find out what PSA has to offer in the way of photographic activities, resources and benefits. We are so very fortunate to have Kathy to prepare these newsletters once a month, but sometimes other news goes out in individual emails. Competition information, etc. stay tuned to emails from the Photo Guild. We don't want you to miss a single opportunity in the 2023/24 season.

And now, as Laszlo has suggested in an email to the membership, I am seeking a new PSA Club Representative, or at the very least, a person to help me with the duties. Thank you to the 4 people that stepped up to ask questions and volunteer some of your valuable time. I am looking forward to figuring out how we might share the responsibilities.

As I have always said, 'Photography is the best hobby in the world!' Being involved in a club is a great way to learn, evolve, and develop your skills. Giving back to that club is an awesome way to 'up your game' and get to know the membership. I encourage each of you reading this to volunteer to do something for the Guild...even the smallest of tasks will be appreciated.

Viki Gaul, PGNS PSA Club Rep



Evening Speakers



**Dan Burkholder**  
*iPhone Artistry: Fine Art Photography in your Pocket*



**Ian Plant**  
*Making Compelling Nature Photos*



**Frans Lanting**  
*Eye to Eye with Life*

Daytime Speakers - repeat programs Thursday, Sept 28 and Friday, Sept 29



**Dan Anderson**  
*The Art of Landscape Photography with a Drone from Capture to Print*



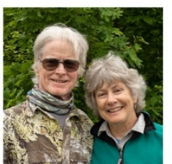
**Rad Drew**  
*Your iPhone as a Creative Powerhouses*



**Roman Loranc**  
*Beauty in Photography - in the Grey Morning Surrendering to Nature Black & White Emerge*



**Dan Margulis**  
*The Youth and Adolescence of Image Enhancement: The Inevitable and the Unforeseeable*



**Joe & Mary Ann McDonald**  
*Techniques, Settings and Locations for your Wildlife Photography Opportunities*



**Jim Zuckerman**  
*Solving Problems in Photography with Photoshop*

Tours  
Programs  
Receptions  
Gallery  
Model Shoots



Online Registration has closed!  
Register on-site in Williamsburg

## Events News

### ViewPoint Gallery Exhibitions



Clear Cut - detail

Roxanne Smith

## Behold

### An exhibition by [Roxanne Smith](#)

Exhibition: Sept.7- Oct.1, 2023

Opening: Thursday, Sept.7, 6-8pm

Artist Talk: Sunday, Sept.17, 2pm

"A picture is a worth a thousand words", or so we keep saying. But how many words are excluded?

A photograph is an image of a fraction of the scene where/when it is located. The full sense of the location is never revealed. What is to the left? To the right? Behind? What part of the story of the location/event is being left out?

This exhibition attempts to add some of the words that have been left out.

GALLERY **B**

**September 7 - October 1**

*A Members' Group Exhibition*

**LAND·SEA & SKY**

LAND·SEA & SKY

**Address:** 1475 Bedford Hwy, Bedford, NS B4A 3Z5

**Hours:** Open · Closes 5 p.m.

**Phone:** [\(902\) 420-0854](tel:9024200854)



## **Bridgewater Photography Society Speaker Series**

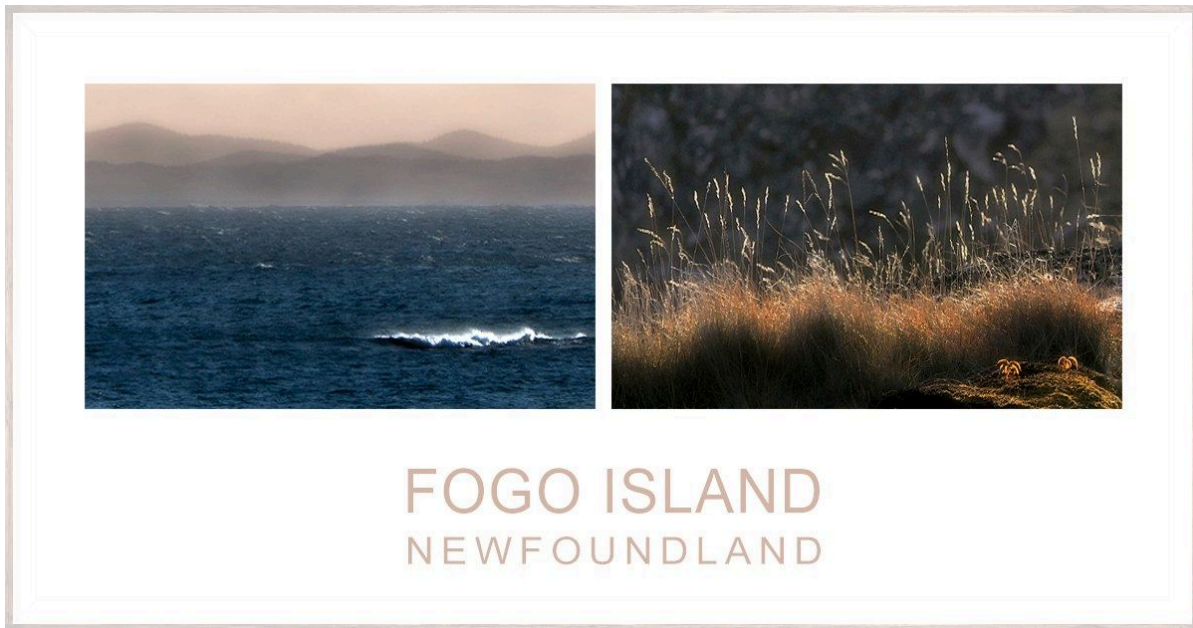
Webinar: “Preparing Photographic Projects”

When: Tuesday, September 26, 2023:

Guest Speaker: Lynn Ferguson

Check your email for the ZOOM link.

## **ArtQuest Workshop**



**FOGO ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**  
**October 21 to 29, 2023. with Maurice Henri and Karen Casey**

Joining a photography workshop can give you many benefits. You can experience hands-on learning, get professional guidance, learn different styles and techniques, develop your skills, receive feedback and critique, feel motivated and inspired, gain specialized knowledge and practices, and take a refreshing break from your daily routine. Combining immersive learning with practical application, expert guidance, and inspiration, a photography workshop can significantly enhance your photography skills, broaden your perspective, and cultivate personal and artistic growth.

FOR MORE INFORMATION/CONTACT: <https://www.artquestphoto.com/work>

## PGNS at AGNS

### An Afternoon with Annie, Andy and Doc at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Back by popular demand, we have arranged a viewing of a selection of prints from the Annie Leibovitz: Photographs from her Books collection held in trust at the AGNS. This year we will also be viewing images from Andy Warhol's Little Red Book #144 and Harold "Doc" Edgerton.

The images in the set have appeared in ten books: Annie Leibovitz: Photographs (1983); The White Oak Dance Project (1990); Annie Leibovitz: Photographs 1970-1990 (1991); Olympic Portraits (1996); Women (1999), American Music (2003); A Photographer's Life: 1990-2005 (2006); Annie Leibovitz at Work (2008); Pilgrimage (2011); and a limited-edition volume to be published at the end of the year. The set of photographs is Number One in an edition of three sets.

Andy Warhol was an American visual artist and is known for his pop art. Also known as "Papa Flash", Harold "Doc" Edgerton developed the strobe in the 1930s and was responsible for developing many of the high-speed photography techniques that are still in use today (<https://edgerton-digital-collections.org/>).

This **in-person** event at the AGNS on Saturday Sept 9, 2023 at 1pm is **limited to 20 paid up PGNS members**, so all the more reason to make sure you have paid your dues to our Treasurer, Dean Hirtle. Email [joyceskchew@gmail.com](mailto:joyceskchew@gmail.com) by Sept 6 to be added to the list of participants.

Full details will be provided closer to the date to those attending.

After viewing the prints, you may wish to consider paying the AGNS fee and explore the rest of the Art Gallery Exhibits which include the exhibit "Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity" as well as the work of Nelson White and "Realism's Reach".

<https://agns.ca/exhibition/arctic-amazon-networks-of-global-indigeneity/>

<https://agns.ca/exhibition/nova-scotia-spotlight-nelson-white/>

<https://agns.ca/exhibition/realisms-reach/>

## **Guild Program for September: A Reminder**

Wednesday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm-9pm

**PGNS Season Opener: What you did last summer.**

Saturday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 1pm-4pm

**Field Trip: Views at AGNS Print**

Monday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm-9pm

**Webinar: Fine Digital Printing**

Presenter: Eric Boutilier-Brown

Sunday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, by 11:45 pm

**Upload deadline for CAPA Fall Round**

Sunday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm to 9pm

**Webinar: A Canoe and Photographic Adventure in Canada's Arc**

Presenter: Jim Neale

Saturday, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3pm-5pm

**Field Trip: Macro**

Leader: Laszlo Podor

Saturday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup> (rain date: Oct 1<sup>st</sup>) (Location/time to be determined)

**Field Trip: Outdoor Portraiture**

Leader: Merv Kumar-Misir

**For details, check the PGNS website and/or your email**

# Memories.....

Macro Field Trip at the home of Laszlo and Maria Podor



France Boutilier presenting her winning photo to Mayor Savage



## South Shore Field Trip



## Cape Breton Field Trip: Gooseberry Cove

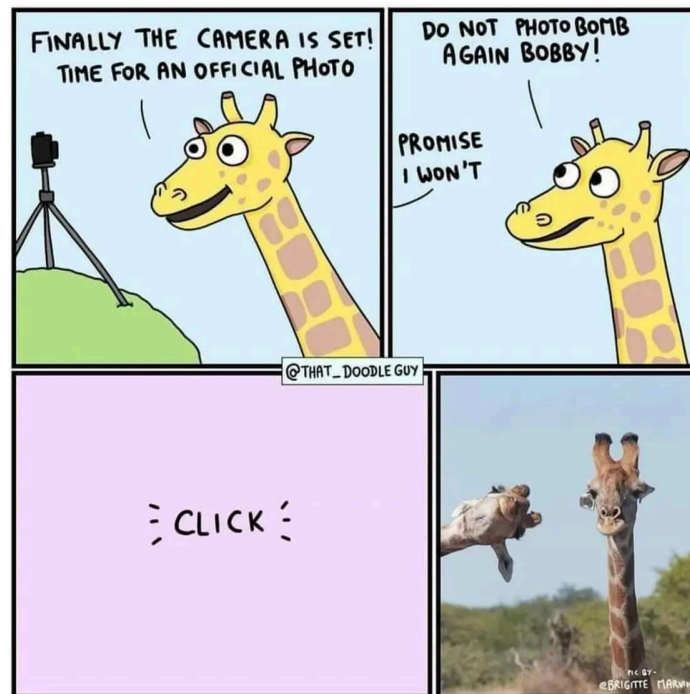


# Photography Trivia



You might think that funny cat photos are a trend that began a few years ago. It's still one of the most popular searches in Google. However, cat photography has its origins in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The viral trend was born in the 1870s when Harry Pointer took a photo of his cat and started it all.

Someone please thank the man!



## Photo of the Month

“Catch of the day “ by Antonio Solis



When submitting your photos, please

- Size your image with competition dimensions (1400 x 1050).
- Make sure you **copyright** your image (put your name on the image).
- Send your photos to: [newsletter@photoguild.ns.ca](mailto:newsletter@photoguild.ns.ca)

An image will be chosen at random for the next newsletter. You may submit as many as 5 images to increase your chances. Please take this opportunity to showcase your beautiful photos. Your participation is very much appreciated.

*Anyone can shoot chaos. But the most perceptive photographers can make compelling pictures out of uninteresting moments.*

*- Alex Tehrani -*