



April 2025

Black and White (and Gray and Gray and...)

by Paula Matzek

If you've been paying attention on competition nights, you've noticed that color image entries generally far outnumber monochrome images. Are you "guilty" of steering clear of mono photography in favor of color? If so, read on!

In the days of film photography, you were a monochrome shooter as soon as you loaded your camera with black and white film. These days, most of us are capturing digital images, which show the colors in the scene or object. But are there some images that are best converted to monochrome?

Almost any type of image can be a candidate for a striking monochrome. We've all seen great mono images in many categories, including:

- landscapes
- portraits (of people or animals)
- architecture (exterior, interior, details)
- texture-rich objects
- street photographs
- flowers and other botanical subjects
- antique subjects (old cars, weathered furniture, historic still lifes...)
- silhouettes

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How can you tell when an image may make a good monochrome? Sometimes the colors in an image are irrelevant and may even *distract* from the main subject or idea of the photo. A good mono image emphasizes contrast and often includes areas of true white, true black, and many tones of gray in between. Light and shadow may be prominently featured in the image. Color shooters often avoid photographing during midday, but a photo taken in the middle of a sunny day can sometimes work well as a mono image. Images that are strong in lines, textures, patterns, or shapes often make good mono photos. Monochrome images can also be superior at creating a mood — dramatic, nostalgic, gloomy...

Ready to challenge yourself to create more mono images? Many of the newest cameras have a mono preview mode so that you can get an idea of what the photo would look like as a monochrome before you shoot. A Google search for “monochrome photography” will guide you to a wealth of articles and You Tube videos, including tips for most effectively converting your color images to mono in post-processing. And you’ll want to spend some time online or with books just examining some great mono photos. What makes them stand out?

Give monochrome a try! We’ll be looking for YOUR mono images at the next Camera Club competition!

Photographing Flowers for Competitions

By Patty Colabuono

Our April competition included quite a few flower images. And they were all lovely. So why do the scores differ so greatly? A flower is a flower, right?

Award-winning entries seem to have a few characteristics in common. First of all, they have a clear subject. A beautiful flower can be lost if surrounded by distractions like fallen leaves, fading blooms, etc. Successful entries tend to get in close to fill the frame or use a shallower depth of field to draw attention to the subject. High-scoring entries also focus on the unique character of the flower - texture, color, the curve of the petals, etc. The flowers themselves are usually clean and at their peak. But not always. Does it have to be a perfect specimen? No! Sometimes the best images are blooms with character.

As with most (or all) photography, light matters. And it matters a lot. An image of a flower taken in harsh, bright light will not score as well as one in soft, diffused light. Of course, the other “rules” of photography apply as well. Besides an interesting subject, the judges will be looking for proper exposure, good composition, and that elusive “wow” factor.

The first flower below was shot in bright sunlight. This would probably have scored an 18. The flower itself is pretty, but the blown highlights in some of the stamens and the harsh shadows detract from its beauty. The judges would also have had an issue with the dirt spots that could have been easily cleaned up in Photoshop.



The second poppy would most likely score a little better, probably about 21. The light is softer (though a little too flat), exposure and focus are good, and the flower itself is clean

The image of the rose below would probably score a bit higher. It was shot with a macro lens with a wide aperture to give it a dreamy look and to draw attention to the ruffles of the petals. Unique compositions sometimes score better than straight portraits of flowers.



In the end, it's always a nice ego boost to get an award or honorable mention, but the most important thing is to have fun and to keep trying to improve our photography skills. The score from the judges is just one measure of how we're doing. Comments and critiques from members of our club can also be very helpful.

SUMMER PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

By Jan Weld

Weather is improving, Spring is on the way. Remove the winter debris from your gardens for new sprouting flowers to photograph. Charge your batteries and format your cards. Prepare your computer hard drive for more exciting images of fun times. If you haven't already you may want to start planning for new photographic adventures. Arlington Camera Club is beginning to plan field trips for the summer. Many trips will depend on weather conditions, plant growth, bird migration and other activities. I hope everyone will renew their love for photography and meet people who share their passion and join us in some of the activities below. As previously mentioned, it is difficult to predict certain dates yet. My hope is that our organizers will post possible "Save the Date(s)" so people may be able to attend events. Field trips may be led by one or more. If ever you feel you would like to go to a various event, location or activity, please let Bob Reynolds or myself know if you would like company. There could be others who would like to join in with the fun. Listed below are some things you may be interested in doing. Some places would be enjoyable all summer. Some have yet to have a leader or organizer in charge yet. You may wish to take charge. If so, please contact us so the word may be spread. We are open to other suggestions too if you wish to share.

Suggested: May 3-18th--"Lilac Time" and tulips—at Lilacia Park, 150 S Park Av, Lombard

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cost \$20 No organizer at this time

Suggested: May 18: Lilac Festival Parade, 1014 S Main St, Lombard

No organizer at this time

April-May ??: bird migration at Montrose Harbor, 601 W Montrose Av, Chicago.

Organizers: Sandy Tipton, Reinhard Schwind

May ??: Milwaukee Art Museum (tickets: \$27?? Organizer: Paula Matzek

May ??: Illinois Railway Museum – 7000 Olson Rd, Union, IL Organizer: Carl Chandler

May-June: Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Rd, Glencoe, IL

and/or Anderson Japanese Gardens, 318 Spring Creek RD, Rockford, IL 61107

organizer: Vesela Zlateva

July: Old World Wisconsin—remake of olden days Organizer: Paula Matzek
700 N Art Museum Dr, Milwaukee, WI

July??: Lake Arlington Walk at 2201 N Windsor Dr, Arlington Heights 60004
Organizer: Glenn Kaupert

Northwind Perennial Farm 7047 Hospital Rd, Burlington, WI 53105
Flowers various buildings and interesting things to photograph. Jan Williams
calling
to learn best time to be there

Suggested: Stillman Nature Center- “Birds of Prey” -- \$20/ car 33 W Penny Rd,
S Barrington 60010 No organizer at this time

August??: Cantigny Park, at 1S, 151 Winfield Rd, Wheaton Organizer: Glenn Kaupert

Aug 9: DeKalb County Barn tour, Aug 9 \$40/car different barns no organizer at this
time

Aug/September: Lake Barrington Sailboat races. Organizer: Bob Reynolds

I hope to see many of you this summer. Here is a list of Arlington Camera Club's remain
Wednesday night programs. The future looks very interesting. I think everyone enjoy
these programs. I hope to see you there.

Jan Weld

Sax Zim Bog—Winter Paradise for Bird Photographers

By Sandy Tipton

During the last week of January, I visited Sax Zim Bog located near Meadowlands, Minnesota. It is a mix of habitats that attract a diverse number of wildlife and plant species not found in other parts of USA. Minnesota's DNR was forecasting a high number of owls due to the lack of owls' main diet of moles and mice in northern Canada. I have visited Sax Zim Bog three other times, but this year was promising to be more spectacular. It was!

Sax Zim Bog is a prime habitat for many rare birds: Great Gray Owls, Black-backed Woodpeckers, Boreal Owls, Saw Whet Owls, Northern Hawk Owls, Snowy Owls, Boreal Chickadees, many warblers, Rough legged Hawk and several others. As of 2024, this 300 square mile area provided homes for bobcats, moose, mink, Ermine, pine martens, star-nose moles and otters. The head naturalist compiled a master list of over 3,000 species which is still growing. Come spring and summer wild orchids and over 430 species of plants, 82 species of butterflies and 600 types of moths will appear. More land will soon be acquired.

I stay in Duluth which is about 45 minutes from the bog. The weather was good, not too cold while I was there though one needs to be prepared for all types of weather. It did get much colder once I left. I met so many photographers from around the world: Australians, Europeans, even from South America. Sax Zim Bog is recognized as an important bird area by the National Audubon and Birdlife International.

I hope you enjoy some of my Sax Zim Bog photographs -- Sandy Tipton



Great Gray Owl



Pine Martin



Boreal Owl



Bald Eagle

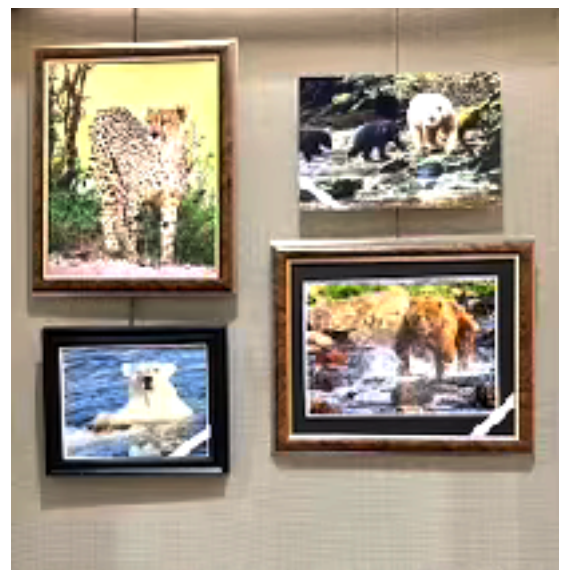
OUR CURRENT PHOTO DISPLAY

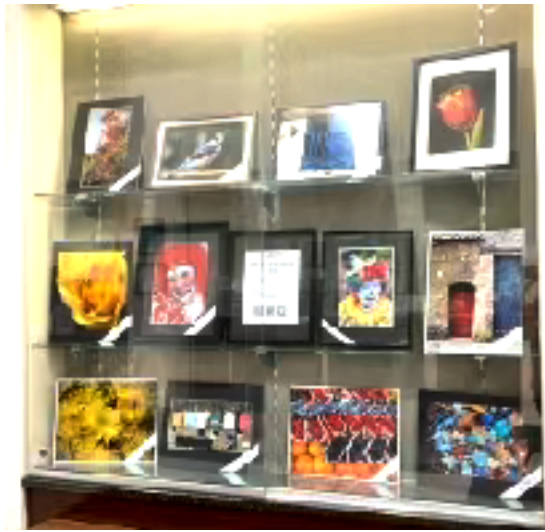
By Judy King

Stop by our April exhibit at Arlington Heights Village Hall. Come and see the talents on display of your fellow camera club members!

The Theme is COLOR

The members that are exhibiting are: Jan Weld, Judy King, Paula Matzek, Steve Seburn, Sue Farwick, and Augie Greidanus.







Looking for something to do Wednesday mornings?

Join Us for Breakfast

9:00AM every Wednesday

Sparkling conversation on all conceivable subjects

And the food isn't bad either

Where?

At the Continental Restaurant

788 S Buffalo Grove Rd, Buffalo Grove, IL

Northwest corner of Buffalo Grove Road and Dundee Road

Come join us...

Larry, Larry, Mike, Bob, Judie and Rich

ACC Competition Results – April 2, 2025

Print Competition

Small Color Prints

Mark Becker, “Maya Ruins”, 24 pts - AW, Print of the Month

Sandra Tipton, “Hummingbird and Honeybee, 23 pts. - AW

Carol Willie, “Opening Soon”, 23 pts. – HM

Bob Reynolds, “Green Honeycreeper”, 23 pts. - HM

Large Color Prints

Paula Matzek, “Green”, 24 pts. – AW, Print of the Month

Jan Weld, “Nesting Great Egrets”, 22 pts. – HM

Small Mono

Jan Weld, “Flamingo” 23 pts – AW, Print of the Month

Paula Matzek, “Auditorium Stairway”, 23 pts. – HM

Large Mono

Jan Weld, “Tough Day”, 24 pts – AW, Print of the Month

Mark Becker, “Unlicensed Driver” 23 pts. – HM

DPI Competition

COLOR CLASS A			
Sandra Tipton	Avian Rockstar	24	BOS
Reinhard Schwind	Bon Appetit	24	HM
Vesela Zlateva	Pink Orchid	24	HM
COLOR CLASS B			
Carl Chandler	Cloud City	23	AW
Nancy Soos	Pink Orchid 2025	23	HM
Joe Peabody	evening vibes	22	AW
Patty Colabuono	Field Poppies	22	HM
MONOCHROME CLASS A			
Sandra Tipton	White Pelicans	24	HM
Glenn Kaupert	Spring Sparrow	23	AW
MONOCHROME CLASS B			
Vesela Zlateva	Drops on a Leaf	24	BOS
Alfredo Rodriguez	Young Lion	23	HM
Joe Peabody	upward spiral	23	HM

April Competition Recognized Photos

Prints

Small Color Prints



Mark Becker, Myan Ruins, 24 pts - AW,
Print of the Month



Sandra Tipton, "Hummingbird and Honeybee,"
23 pts. - AW



Carol Willie, "Opening Soon",
23 pts. - HM



Bob Reynolds, "Green Honeycreeper",
23 pts. - HM

Large Color Prints



Paula Matzek, "Green", 24 pts. - AW,
Print of the Month



Jan Weld, "Nesting Great Egrets",
22 pts. – HM

Small Mono Prints



Jan Weld Jan Weld, "Flamingo" 23 pts –
AW, Print of the Month



Paula Matzek, "Auditorium Stairway",
23 pts. – HM

Large Mono Prints



Jan Weld, "Tough Day", 24 pts – AW,
Print of the Month



Mark Becker, "Unlicensed Driver" 23 pts. – HM

DPI Competition

Color Class A



Sandra Tipton~Avian Rockstar 24 BOS



Reinhard Schwind~Bon Appetit 24 HM



Vesela Zlateva~Pink Orchid 24 HM

Color Class B



Carl Chandler~Cloud City 23 AW



Nancy Soos~Pink Orchid 23



Joe Peabody~evening vibes 23 AW



Patty Colabuono~Field Poppies 22 HM

Monochrome Class A

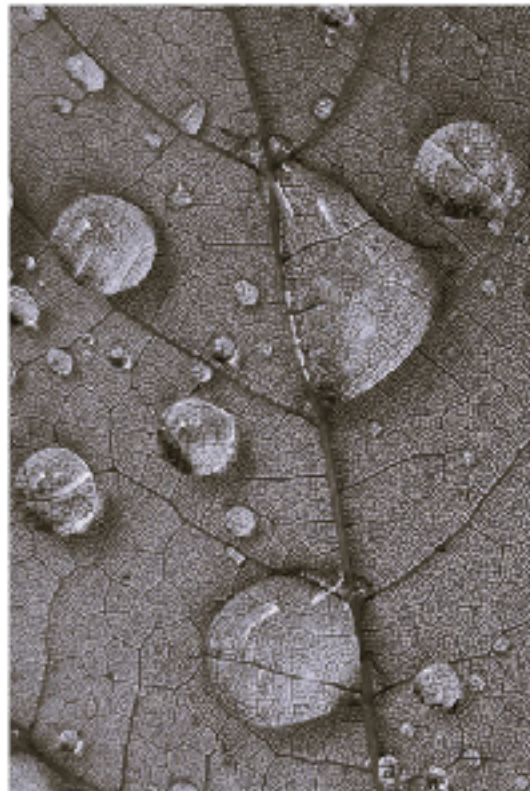


Sandra Tipton~White Pelicans 24 HM



Glenn Kaupert~Spring Sparrow 23 AW

Monochrome Class B



Vesela Zlateva~Drops on a Leaf 24 BOS



Alfredo Rodriguez~Young Lion 23 HM



Joe Peabody~upward spira 23 HM

Officers and Committee Chairs 2024-2025

OFFICERS / DIRECTORS		Notes
Co-Presidents	Jan Weld	NEED new Co-Presidents for 2025-2026.
Vice-President of Programs and Workshops	Nancy Soos	
Vice-President of Competition	Prints: Jan Williams DP: Gerardo Velesquez (primary), Reinhard Schwind	
Subcommittee (Prints):		
Sort print entries Display images for judging	Paola Matzek	
Sort print entries Display images for judging	Steve Sebern	
Sort print entries Display images for judging	Sandra Tipton	On Board Meeting distribution list.
Score recorder	Kathy Grady	
Score recorder	Mike Garber	
Sort print entries, Deliver images to lightbox	Patrick Grady	
Computer: Judging Program Set up judging keypads	Bob Reynolds	
Collect images for CACCA	Reinhard Schwind	
Prepare winner ribbons	Jan Weld	
Backup	Jan Weld	
Backup	Jucie Reynolds	
Subcommittee (DP):		
	(VACANCY)	
Prepare winner ribbons	Jan Weld	
Treasurer	Jucie Reynolds	

*ACC meets at the Christian Church of
Arlington Heights, 333 W. Thomas Avenue,
three blocks west of Arlington Heights
Road, across from Hasbrook Park on the
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at
7:30 p.m.*



*Chicago
Area
Camera
Clubs
Association.*