



THE IMAGE

June 2018
Summer Issue

View From the Boardroom

By Susan Frechette

If somebody asks me what my favorite season is, I usually answer ‘fall’. But right now I’m really happy to see summer. I’m sure you’ll agree with me that it was a long winter. We had three meetings cancelled due to bad weather, which I think is a record. But somehow the year still whizzed by and here we are at the close of another CCC season. The board works hard every year to plan for varied topics and activities and we hope that all of you enjoyed the meetings that we put together. It’s difficult to please every member at every meeting because we all have different skill levels and different interests, but hopefully there was something for everyone throughout the year. Your survey feedback has been very useful in providing guidance and ideas for next year’s programs. Thanks to all who responded to Maryann’s survey. And also a big THANK YOU to everyone who made our meetings more enjoyable by bringing all those ‘goodies’!

Over the summer, many of you will be taking vacations and traveling to some great spots; *and* getting lots of great pictures, of course. But even if you don’t have plans to go anyplace exotic, remember that there are so many interesting and beautiful places right here in Connecticut. We have fifty-four state parks and twenty-five state forests in Connecticut, all filled with miles of trails for biking and hiking, lakes for swimming and boating, and providing lots of photo opportunities. Think about visiting at least one state park this summer that is new to you; someplace you’ve never been to before. Connecticut also has fourteen historic gardens throughout the state. I personally love historic gardens. I’m always fascinated to see what kinds of plants were grown centuries ago and what the plants were used for. But I haven’t been to a single historic garden in Connecticut. I plan to do some ‘catch up’ and visit several this summer.

In a few weeks members of the club will be going on an afternoon lighthouse cruise (if you missed my email with the details and are interested in going, contact me ASAP.) We’re all hoping to get some great shots of some of the lighthouses in the New London area. I’ve been living on the Connecticut shoreline since I was fifteen, and I’ve never seen any of the lighthouses featured on this cruise, so even if I don’t get a single ‘good’ shot, my day will not be wasted. To see these lighthouses for the first time, and from the water, will be an unforgettable experience for me.

Last year the board suggested we do a summer photo project. Many members liked the idea and used the opportunity to photograph some new places or hone a new photography skill. This summer we’re again asking members to pick a topic and show us your pictures in September. Bring a camera and take lots of pictures wherever you go this summer. September will be here before you know it!

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“The two most engaging powers of a photograph are to make new things familiar and familiar things new.” William Thackeray

OFFICERS

President
Maryann Flick 860-304-5693

Vice President
Paula Chabot 860-399-5414

Secretary
Sue Frechette 860-663-1372

Treasurer
Mike Frechette 860-663-1372

Past President
Archie Stone 203-245-2381

COMMITTEES

Exhibits
Allison Maltese 203-458-7916

Hospitality—Open

Membership
Dave Rathbun 203-484-2262

Newsletter
Sue Frechette 860-663-1372

Programs
Mark Janke 203-457-1890

Publicity
Colin Reeve 203-241-7949
Dawn Schieferdecker 860-526-5753

Digital Image Technology
Louis Secki 203-804-7479

Webmaster
Rob Nardino 203-318-0831

Activities—Open

2018 FALL MEETING SCHEDULE

Program scheduling has not yet been completed. The following is preliminary and will be updated in the fall edition of this newsletter.

September 19, 2018—Meet and Greet, summer project photos

October 3, 2018 — TBD

October 17, 2018—Senior Center Show Opening

November 7, 2018—Speaker Michael Pressman: Abstract Composites

November 21, 2018—Critique Night

December 5, 2018—Holiday Potluck Party

January 2, 2019—TBD

January 16, 2019—Print Critique Night

February 6, 2019—Hi Jinx

February 20, 2019—Critique Night

March 6, 2019—TBD

March 20, 2019—40 Slide Review

April 3, 2019—CCC/SECC Joint Competition hosted by SECC

April 17, 2019—TBD

May 1, 2019—Gladeview Healthcare Show Opening

May 15, 2019—Review of Annual Club Project

June 5, 2019—Annual Business Meeting; Potluck Dinner

2018 - 2019 EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

October 9, 2018—Senior Center Fall Show hang 5—7pm

November 19, 2018—Senior Center Take Down 8:30 am—4pm

January 5, 2019—Connecticut Hospice Show; drop off 12:00—2:00pm

February 23, 2019—Connecticut Hospice Take Down

March 4, 2019—Senior Center Spring Members Show hang 5-7pm

April 15, 2019—Senior Center Take Down 8:30 am—4pm

April 27, 2019—Gladeview Show Drop Off; 12:00-2:00pm

May 1, 2019—Gladeview Show Opening; 6:30-8:00 pm

June 22, 2019—Gladeview Take Down;

INSTRUCTION ON PRINTING

Recently Sue and Mike Frechette held an instructional session with one of our members which covered the ins and outs of printing from Adobe Lightroom. The session focused on aspect ratios and how to crop and size your print so that it fits in a standard mat. If you've been reluctant to enter your work in a print competition or exhibit because you are unsure of how to print your image, let us help you. We can schedule either a one-on-one session with you alone or, if there are several people with an interest, we can do a group session. Contact Mike and Sue at wfrprs@att.net.

MEETUPS

Lighthouse Cruise: CCC club members are planning to go on a Lighthouse Cruise on Wednesday July 18th. The cruise leaves from New London and goes out to nine lighthouses in the area. It lasts about 2 hours and the cost is \$30 per person. If you are interested, contact Sue Frechette for more info. Here is the web site.

<https://www.longislandferry.com/Common/Help.aspx?page=/lighthouse/classic>

HELP WANTED

We have several vacant positions on the board, making it necessary for the current board members to take on multiple roles. If you are interested in helping to steer club activities and are willing to take on a few tasks throughout the year, we would welcome your help. We have an immediate need for someone to chair the Activities Committee which promotes and organizes activity meetups. We also need someone to manage refreshments at the regular meetings. These positions require only a small amount of time. Please contact Maryann or any board member if you can give us a hand.

GLADEVIEW SLIDE SHOWS

CCC members are doing slide shows every month for the residents at the Gladeview Rehab Center in Old Saybrook. These shows help the residents stay in touch with the outside and often invoke memories and we've received very positive feedback from the facility. We need volunteers to do slide shows through the summer and fall. Travel is always an enjoyable topic as well as local scenes and events, but other topics are welcome. The presentation should take about thirty minutes or less. Our experience is that 50–60 images will usually fit into that timeframe. You can use the club projector as well as the club laptop if you need it. The facility is flexible on scheduling a Tuesday that will work for you. Please consider volunteering. It's fun, the audience is enthusiastic, and it's a nice way to show some of your great images. If you would like to do a slide show but need help with creating or presenting it, let Maryann know and one of us will be happy to give you a hand. We will also accompany you during your presentation, if you'd like a little extra support.

ANNUAL CCC PROJECT

If you want to get a head start on the 2018-2019 Annual CCC Project, the theme will be "Work the Subject". Pick a place or subject and take pictures from different perspectives. For instance, if you've chosen an interesting or favorite spot that you like, frequent that spot throughout the year and take pictures in different lighting situations, or different seasons of the year. Make a study of it. If you choose a particular subject rather than a place, think about how you can photograph the subject in different ways. Different poses, angles and lighting techniques can present your subject from different perspectives. If you need some guidance or ideas on how to do this, here are a couple of helpful websites that discuss the process of 'working the subject'.

<https://creativepro.com/photography-fundamentals-work-scene/>

<https://digital-photography-school.com/create-stronger-photos-working-subject/>

FLICKR SUMMER THEME

The club flickr theme for summer will be 'Critters'. Summer is probably when we get to spend the most time outdoors so wildlife, farm animals, pets, birds, rodents, and insects—any and all of these qualify. If you are not familiar with our flickr site, here is the link. We look forward to seeing all the 'critters' you've run into over the summer.

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/coastalcameraclub/>

SUMMER EVENTS**NECCC 2018 Conference :**

July 13-15 at UMASS Amherst. For more information go to <http://www.neccc.org/p/2018-conference.html>

Weir Farm: The Art of Phonegraphy on Saturday July 7th and September 23rd from 9am to 1pm:

free half day photography seminar led by nationally exhibited photographer and visiting artist Xi-omaro. The seminar focuses on providing tips and tools to create dynamic, artistic photos using a smart phone, but DSLRs and more experienced photographers are also welcome as the workshop will cover the application of five historical principles used by fine art painters. The landscape at Weir Farm has inspired the creation of masterpieces for 137 years. To register, call the park at 203-834-1896 ext. 28. For more information go to <https://tinyurl.com/ybdge4mj>

Lighthouse Cruise: CCC Meetup Activity. Planned for Wednesday July 18th at 2pm.

The 2 hour cruise leaves from the New London dock and goes to nine lighthouses. For more information contact Sue Frechette at wfrprs@att.net

Shoreline Trolley Museum: Photographers Night August 25 from 7-9 pm.

Antique trolley cars will be on display with their lights on. A number of short run-bys and stills will be set up on the Branford marsh trestle curve area and in the carbarn-yard area. For more information go to <http://shorelinetrolley.org/event/photographers-night-3/>

WHY DO WE TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS?

By Mike Frechette

Recently I was sorting through thousands of pictures that I'd taken in the last ten years and I realized that many of them were not very good. I could see how much better the newer photos were and the old photographs were not what I remembered them to be. But even though I'm a better photographer today, I still take a lot of bad pictures! The thought suddenly struck me; why am I doing this?

Professional photographers take pictures to generate income; it is a job and they need to make a living. For those of us who do not make our living taking pictures, any income from pictures that we sell will help defray some of the costs of the hobby. But I didn't take all those pictures, hoping to make money from them. In fact, some of them are so bad, I don't know why I kept them.

The main reason most of us take pictures is to capture a moment, whether it be something of beauty that we see, or a moment in our lives that we wish to keep and cherish. Another reason for taking pictures is to show others that we've been somewhere; which is why selfies are so popular.

For some folks, taking pictures is a creative exercise. They want to capture something that is beautiful or interesting; something that appeals to the human emotions. They enjoy the experience of going out and exploring nature and seek to find elements of color or movement in the natural world around them. For them, photography becomes a way of seeing order in the chaotic world around us. Advice we often hear says to keep our pictures simple and focused. This helps us to see what the creator saw when he or she took the picture.

The internet provided me with some interesting ideas on why we take pictures. Monica Shulman, who writes for the Huffington Post blog, says that photography teaches us to "learn to see". We go through days and nights seeing the same things over and over, and our minds naturally start skipping over things. When we travel somewhere new to us, we see everything because we've never been there before. As we become better photographers, we begin to see all the things around us that we've been missing.

We also want to tell stories with our photographs. The stories we tell are our own stories, filtered through what we see, and are different for every person. Once when I was young, I took a picture of a dead cat. You're probably thinking "How gross!" But I saw a story and I wanted to tell it. Who owned the cat? What happened to it? Did anyone miss it? I was a very bad photographer then, so the picture was truly awful, but the desire to tell the story was there.

I think that to some extent, photography allows us to freeze a moment in time, and whatever story or wonder we've captured, the photo allows us to hold that moment in our memory. What we choose to photograph may not appeal to everyone, but knowing that someone at some time may appreciate a photo that I've taken brings a smile to my face.

So why do I take pictures? Because it's fun and it makes me happy. I hope you get the same enjoyment out of this great hobby.

AN INTERVIEW WITH CCC MEMBER ALLISON MALTESE

By Susan Frechette

This month it was my pleasure to interview Allison Maltese, a talented photographer and valuable contributor to our club. We can thank Allison for curating and hanging the club's images and preparing programs for all our shows, but she also pitches in with every event or activity we hold. Allison joined the CCC in 2009 and has served on the board for the past seven years. She regularly wins awards for her beautiful flower photography, and a few years ago won Best in Show at our Scranton Exhibit for a stunning portrait of a street musician in Central Park. She has held private shows at the Willoughby Wallace Library, Guilford Free Library, Gladeview Rehab & Healthcare Center and The Art Corridor at Yale New Haven Hospital. She currently has floral mandala work in two Guilford galleries.

Please tell us something about yourself.

I was born and raised in the woods of Killingworth. I went to Mercy High School and graduated from Connecticut College with a degree in Graphic Design. From the time I was eight years old I knew I wanted to be a commercial artist. After I graduated, I took a job with Anita Soos Design in Stony Creek. As Production Manager, I worked a lot with photographers and we produced a lot of mail order catalogs. The work was done at a local photography studio, and I saw different exposures and how the lighting and setups were done. So when I joined CCC, I already had some photography background, but it was from a different perspective, because it was all studio photography.

How did you get started with photography and how did you develop your skills?

I was always interested in photography. I started taking photos when I was fourteen. I took a photography class in college where I learned the basics and how to develop film in the darkroom. After that I was hooked. I love nature and started with mostly landscape and flowers and that continues to be my main interest today. I took some photography classes at Maine Media Workshops: one called "Learning to See", a hand coloring class, and a nature slide class. The basic class format involves getting up early each morning to shoot and then in the afternoon you develop your work and have critiques. At night there would be lectures by well-known photographers. It was very immersive.

I've also learned a lot from the club. When I first joined, Archie took myself and another new club member out to Bauer Park and spent an entire morning with us, showing us all the settings on our cameras and teaching us how to set the white balance, aperture, and depth of field. The mentoring I got from the club when I was new was invaluable. I learned the relationship between the three basics of photography: shutter speed, depth of field and ISO. Once you learn these three basics, you're golden.

I also did the 365 project. I shot pictures every day for eighteen months straight. I learned so much by taking pictures every day, by being part of the 365 community, posting my images and getting feedback. I would highly recommend this project to anyone who wants to improve their photography. You can read about it on the web site at <https://365project.org/>. The project helps to instill a discipline of taking a picture every day, and with that, you learn to 'practice, practice, practice.'

I also enjoy doing creative work with nature as a starting point. I use an app to create the kaleidoscope flower images that I've entered in some of the CCC shows, which Maryann Flick introduced me to. I've designed fabric using my photos, and I've designed other items such as coasters, cards and magnets. It's fun finding



different ways to use your images. I don't always shoot with this in mind, but when I'm looking at a body of work, sometimes I realize that I have an image that might look good on something. It's a way to stretch myself.

Can you describe how you approach a shoot?

I don't usually have time to shoot in manual all the time; I mostly shoot in aperture priority mode. Or if I'm outside I may shoot in shutter mode, especially if I'm shooting flowers and it's a little windy. On my last trip I tried to shoot in aperture priority mode as much as possible, because I wanted my images to be as sharp as possible. When I'm traveling I use my Sony A6000, which is a mirrorless camera. This is another thing that I learned about from the club. Some club members had mirrorless cameras and, after seeing theirs, I realized it was a good option for me because it's very lightweight for travel. I just take two lenses with me. I also have a Canon EOS Digital Rebel XT. I actually burned out my original Canon EOS, but since I had a number of good lenses, I bought another one to replace it. I use the Canon sometimes, especially for macro work, but on trips I always use the Sony.

What process do you follow when developing a photo?

I use *Photoshop* for processing. My editing process is to first do a quick run through of everything that I shot that day. I'll put the images on "full screen" in *Photos* and pick out the best ones and export a handful of them. Then, in *Photoshop*, I look at sharpness and the histogram, and use the sliders to adjust the whites and shadows. I also do a lot of cropping.

I also use *InDesign* and *Bridge*. *Bridge* is a file organization program that is visual. I have roughly 56,000 images. I have a good visual and chronological memory and I can usually remember when I took certain photos. I just bought a 10TB external hard drive for additional storage. It backs up my hard drive every night.

Do you have a tip to share with our members?

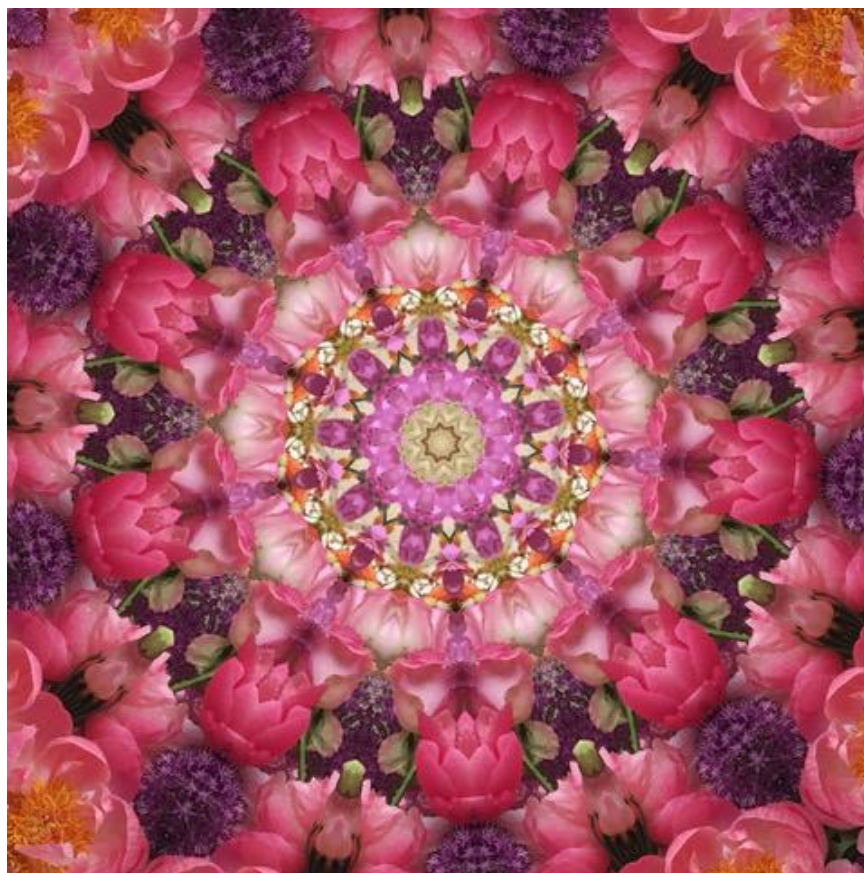
My one tip is to practice. Shoot every day. It's hard to do, and takes discipline, but you'll learn how to use your camera really well, and it will pay off. Eventually you'll get to a point where you can change your settings automatically without thinking about it. Shooting every day also helps to develop a body of work that you can draw from, and this will also help you see how your photography has progressed.

GLADEVIEW PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW WINNERS

We had an exceptional show at the Gladeview Health Care and Rehab center this year. Gladeview hosted a beautiful reception for us on May 2nd which many members attended with family and friends. Participation was excellent with thirteen members submitting sixty images in seven different categories. Here are the first place winners of each category.



‘Happy Hour’ by Jeannine Smith —1st place in the Nature Category



‘Tulip Mandala’ by Allison Maltese—1st place in the Creative category



'Jellyfish' by Sue Frechette —1st place in Nature Touched by Man Category and Best in Show

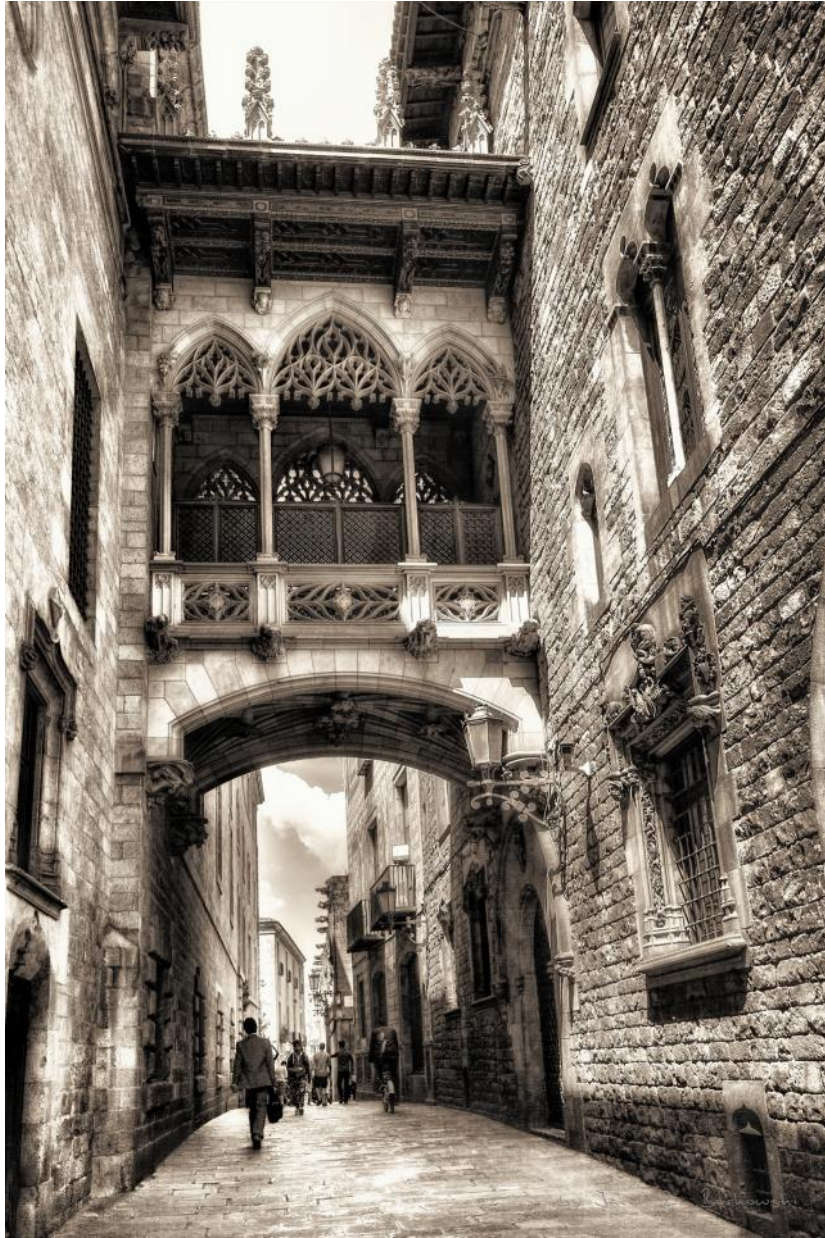


'Perseverance' by Jim Maresca —1st place in the Landscape Category

GLADEVIEW PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW WINNERS



‘Milky Way Over Grand Teton Cabin by Susan Frechette —1st place in the General Category



'Old Barcelona' by Jacek Borkowski —1st place in the Architecture Category

ALL GLADEVIEW WINNERS

Nature: 1st place: Jeannine Smith, 'Happy Hour'; 2nd place: Maryann Flick, 'Lily Pads in Autumn'; 3rd place: Pat Anderson, 'Creek Route Changes After Storm'.

Nature Touched by Man: 1st place and Best in Show: Susan Frechette, 'Jellyfish'; 2nd place: Maryann Flick, 'Female-Ruby Throated Hummingbird'; 3rd place: Dianne Roberts, 'Gerbera Daisy'.

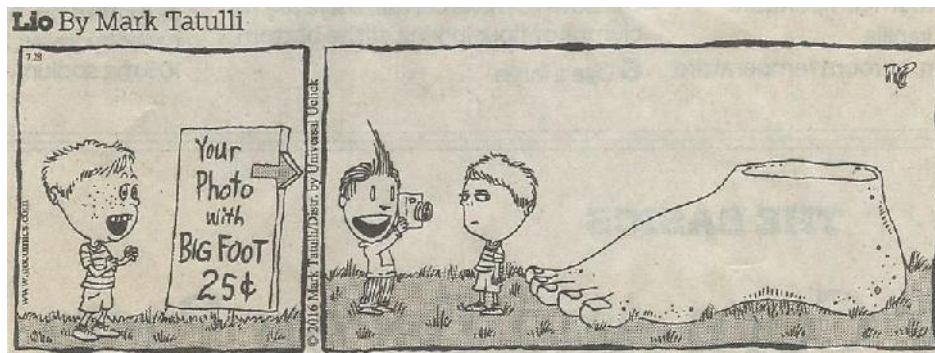
Landscape/Seascape: 1st place: Jim Maresca, 'Perseverance'; 2nd place: Susan Frechette, 'Yellowstone Prismatic Pool'; 3rd place: Jacek Borkowski, 'Madison Coast'; honorable mention: Jacek Borkowski, 'Montepulciano, Tuscany'.

People: 1st place: Louis Secki, 'JoLee'; 2nd place: Dianne Roberts, 'Ice Cream'; 3rd place: Jim Maresca, 'Lost Ballerina'.

Creative: 1st place: Allison Maltese, 'Tulip Mandala'; 2nd place: Russell Page, 'Conduit and Leaves'; 3rd place: Russell Page, 'Blue Star'.

General: 1st place: Susan Frechette, 'Milky Way Over Grand Teton Cabin'; 2nd place: Maryann Flick, 'Rowboat'; 3rd place: Jeannine Smith, 'Neglected'; honorable mention, Dianne Roberts, 'Young Love'.

Architecture: 1st place: Jacek Borkowski, 'Old Barcelona'; 2nd place: Maryann Flick, 'Notre Dame by the River'; 3rd place: Mike Frechette, 'Farm'.



Submitted by Paula Chabot