



Latow in Focus

JANUARY 2011

The Prez sez...

Tom Stephens

It's traditional at this time of year to look back -- and to look ahead. Looking back on the conclusion of Latow's 40th year should remind us that, since September, we have had some good guest speakers, success as a guild in competitions at the national level (images) and international level (newsletters), and renewed our Constitution.

Thanks to a small army of volunteers, we have staged the 10th Annual *Day in the Life* and another Christmas Sale, and enjoyed three outings. And our five special-interest groups are humming along nicely, most having met at least twice.

By the time you read this, the days will be getting longer. As of the last day of 2011, we will have gained [five minutes of light](#) compared to the solstice on December 21 (did you notice?).

Also in the spirit of looking ahead, there are a few events on our calendar that call for a little more advance planning by members than is usually the case.

On 7 February, we will stage a "Yard Sale" of photo equipment. This is your chance to clear out those items that are collecting dust but may be another member's treasures. It will be an evening for "Principals only" – sellers and buyers dealing directly with each other. We'll have the Rotary Room lined with tables and members will bring the gear they want to sell. Members could consider bringing a friend who might be interested.



Squabbling Oriole Pair by **Ort Baldauf** received a score of 25 and an Honourable Mention in the September Evaluations.

Even further out – and needing even more preparation – our meeting on 29 May will be an opportunity to show AV works in progress and get and give feedback. Think "New Exposures", but in an audiovisual format. Shows may be finished, at the conceptual stage, or anywhere in between.

The Latow Board joins me in extending best wishes to all members for a peaceful and shutter-happy 2012.

Wishing all members a great Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

If you are one of our newer members, look for the Mentor sign up sheet at the January General Meeting and add your name if you would like to be connected with a current member of Latow.

Sandi Yacobucci, Membership Chair

Member Profile: Don Corby

Marguerite Botting

Don Corby's passion is clearly his macro photography. As a youngster, Don worked in a camera store to finance his engineering degree; but he has multiple talents. A woodworker and audiophile, Don



builds stereo furniture and store display units. Don owns a successful framing business where his keen eye helps countless customers make framing choices for their art. Very supportive of other artists, Don hosts an Art Show and Sale on the front lawn of his idyllic property.

Don teaches macro photography workshops giving two or more in a year. Having been Don's student, I was most impressed with his program, his generosity in sharing his expertise and his gentle guidance to get an 'in-camera' image.

There is an ethereal quality about Don's images. You realize Don's mastery when you learn his photography is film and the image is right out of the camera. How can he do this? Read on and marvel:

Where do you live? What brought you to the area?
I live in Flamborough having moved from Toronto 20 years ago. I wanted to find some property that I could use for business purposes sometime in the future. I am schooled as an Industrial Engineer but always I wanted to work for myself.

How long have you been a member of Latow?
Approximately 3 years.

What attracted you to Latow in the first place? What keeps you coming back?

I met a number of photographers that were Latow members, attended a few meetings as a guest, enjoyed the curriculum and meeting more people. I am a member of Trillium as well, as each club has different experiences to offer. It is a challenge to be in the two clubs since they both meet on Tuesdays. I enjoy the people at both clubs as well as their different strengths and offerings. There's always so much to learn and do with this hobby and being a member of a club really provides the drive to be better and help others be better as well.

What kind of camera(s) do you shoot with?
Primarily I use a Nikon F3 film camera; I do use an F2 as well, which I bought used when I was in high school. I have recently purchased a Panasonic Lumix G2, which accepts all of my original Nikon lenses. Digital photography is fine for the instant

feedback; but, I still find it limiting in the world of macro photography.

How would you describe your philosophy regarding (a) photography? and (b) post-processing?

I capture an image in the camera exactly as I see it in real life. I don't need to add any post-processing to make the image better or more presentable because I take the image the best I can in the field. If I can't capture it that way, I scrap the image and try again next year. My printed images are as close to my original slide as possible. Now that we're in a mostly digital-printing world, there has to be some post processing to make the scanned copy look like the slide in every aspect of colour, sharpness and sizing.

What are your favourite subjects to photograph?

I prefer shooting native wildflowers and insects with macro lenses.

Tell us about the photograph you've chosen to include in this profile.

I took this California poppy image two years ago in my yard. The poppies are a challenge to capture for a few reasons. They are tall and fragile so the slightest breeze will move them. I was attracted to this plant because of the interaction



between the two flowers and the nice background that was available at the angle that I wanted. In a composition sense, there is a problem - the busy mass of growth at the base of the plant - a huge distraction. To solve this, I vignetted the bottom of the flower by using a broad dandelion leaf. This image was captured on Provia 100 film at 1/15 sec, f11. This is a direct scan of my transparency with no post processing. It is presented to you exactly as I saw it through my viewfinder.

Have you had your photographs published?

I had a picture published in *CAPA Canada* when I was awarded the first place medal (out of 1,100

(Continued from page 2)

entries) in a cross-Canada competition a few years ago. I have been published on covers of Connon Nursery catalogues and *Poetry Canada* magazine.

Have you had your photographs exhibited?

I had two solo exhibitions at the Royal Botanical Gardens as well as smaller venues such as The Hamilton Conservatory of Art and the BAC of course.

Has your photography become a career or is it a hobby?

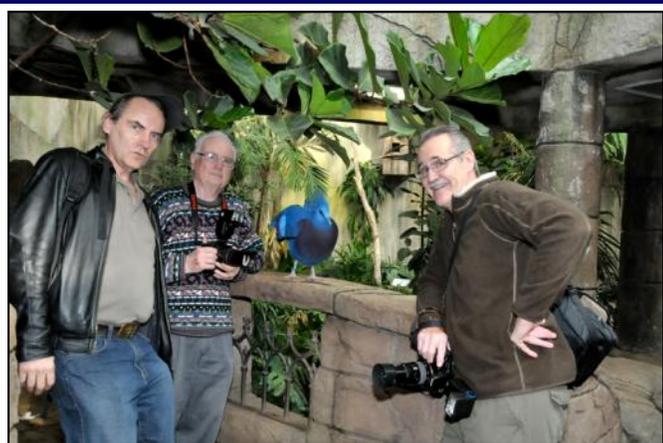
My philosophy about a hobby is that you should try to make it pay for itself. I don't consider my photography as a career; but I am making it pay for itself through holding macro workshops and selling my photographs. Actually, my full time income is picture framing which started 30 years ago by framing my own photographs to sell.

Name one thing in your camera bag that is not technically equipment. What is its purpose?

I use a crumpled foil liner from a Nabob coffee bag. Inside it is silver and outside it is gold, so it makes a great reflector.

Where can we see more of your work?

A selection of my images can be viewed on the [Latow](#) and [Trillium](#) websites and at my [annual art show](#) site. (It takes place June 4,5 in 2012.)



Doug Thomson, Bob Walling and Ort Baldauf with a colourful friend at the December 4th outing to the Niagara Falls Aviary.

Although only three members participated, they spent a few pleasant hours photographing tropical birds and reptiles. Afterwards, the trio retired to Taps on Queen microbrewery for a refreshing brew and delicious lunch.

(Thanks to Doug Thomson for the photo.)



First Glimpse by **Andrzej Pradzynski** scored 25 and an Honourable Mention in the first Evaluations of our 2011-12 season.

Members' News

Recently Latow members **Shirley Dennis, Fred Oliver, Peter Young, Dan Jones, Jim Wallace, Keith Marshall** and **Glen Jones** took part in the annual, *Dust Off Your Soul Art Auction* in Toronto. A percentage of the money raised is donated to the Toronto Suicide Distress Center's 24 hour hot line.

Congratulations to **Tim Story** who had work accepted in the annual Beaux-Arts Wildlife Juried Show. There were 137 entries and less than half were accepted into the exhibition.

Shirley Dennis, Leonie Holmes, Dan Jones, Don Mallory, John Pingree and **Virginia Stranaghan** have work on display at McMaster Innovation Park's 7th *Art in the Workplace* exhibit. Congratulations on a great showing by Latow members! This exhibition runs until March 8.

Latow members submitted fine art prints to the annual *Visual Arts Mississauga Juried Show* in December. **Shirley Dennis, Peter & Vicki Young, Jim Wallace** and **Glen Jones** were accepted into the exhibition. **Glen** won an Honourable Mention and recently learned his print *The Genius Of Gehry* received the exhibition's Peoples Choice Award. Congratulations Glen!

One should really use the camera as though tomorrow you'd be stricken blind.

Dorothea Lange

January 31 guest speaker a flying fine artist

Tom Stephens

Our "bonus Tuesday" in January will truly be a treat. Ottawa professional aerial art photographer [Louis Helbig](#) will present his aerial abstract images including "Beautiful Destruction" of the Alberta tar sands and some of his haunting series on the drowned villages in the St. Lawrence River near Cornwall.

Louis' talk will be illustrated by both projected images and a few of his gorgeous large-format prints. He'll talk about using photographic art to engage people and about his projects. There will be plenty of time to ask Louis about his work and photo (and flying) techniques.

Currently, Louis has prints in the Ontario Society of Artists New Members' Show. It runs until Jan 6, 2012, at the John B. Aird Gallery 900 Bay St, Toronto. Most recently, Louis exhibited at Canvas Gallery, Toronto, during the 2011 Contact Festival; the Montreal Tall Ships Festival (1000s attended!); the Jordan (ON) Art Gallery; and various galleries in Ottawa.

Louis' work has received extensive coverage and positive reviews in the National Post, Ottawa Citizen,

New Exposures - Jan. 10

Peter Young

Our second meeting of the year for New Exposures is coming up on the 10th of January. I invite everyone to bring one (1) image that you would like comments on.

The night is organized in such a fashion that we as a group will view the images presented, then comment on the positive and negative attributes of each image. Our purpose is to offer suggestions which will assist the photographer.

The images can be projected or prints. Please mount the prints if possible. The minimum size of prints should be 8x10, as anything smaller is difficult to view.

Specifications for digital images are the same as for Evaluations and can be found on the Latow website. Look under *Club Information > Downloads > Optimizing for Digital Projection*.

We will start promptly at 7:30 as this is a full night and I anticipate we will have the pleasure of viewing numerous images.



Tar Sands Bitumen by Louis Helbig

CBC Radio and TV, Toronto Now, Los Angeles Anthem Magazine, and many other media outlets. For a preview of what you can expect on January 31, see the brief [CTV documentary](#) on Louis.

This meeting will be a bit unusual for Latow: we will have use of both the Rotary and Shoreline Rooms, to accommodate the many guests who are expected. Members of the Hamilton and Trillium Clubs have been invited, and Latow members are of course welcome to bring guests. (There will be no charge for admission.) It promises to be a special evening.

"Many hands make light work."

Claudette Mancini

That's an expression that my 130-year old father-in-law (if he were still with us) always said. And he's right! I've been involved with Latow for over five years, and during that time I've known this to be true.

Unfortunately, however, oftentimes it's the same hands! As a member, how about stepping up to the plate in the coming year and helping out with the many volunteering opportunities associated with the activities and events that we, as guild members, have at our disposal?

We need new hands and new ideas to keep making us "not your average camera club." Not everyone can do everything, but there's such a lot to choose from, that you can find some way to participate and familiarize yourself with all we have to offer. Make this not only one of your New Year's resolutions, but one you will keep!

My Polar Bear Photo Expedition

Gary Beaudoin

Polar bears! So cute and cuddly on Christmas cards, but actually the largest, most feared, carnivorous predator in North America! Descended from brown (grizzly) bears, adult males can be 1,500 pounds, and stand 10 feet tall on their hind legs. They are massive, strong, fast and agile creatures!



Pat and I visited Churchill, Manitoba, to see and photograph them in mid October. Why Churchill? This small town of only 900 permanent residents on the west shore of Hudson Bay is the "polar bear capital" of Canada, and maybe the world.

Each fall polar bears in big numbers come there waiting for the sea ice to form. Polar bears live on the sea ice eight months of the year, feeding on ringed seals. An adult male may eat 50 ringed seals in a year.

The bears leave the ice at breakup in July, and wander inland all summer in a state called "walking hibernation". They have almost nothing to eat (a few bird's eggs and berries, not nearly enough to sustain them), so by October/November they are back to the shore, hungry and looking for the sea ice that will give them access to seals. Pregnant females spend the summer in denning areas, and get back to the ice a bit later (about January) after birthing their young.



So Churchill has become a tourist area for viewing polar bears. They regularly come into town, so residents are knowledgeable about them and the associated safety concerns and act accordingly. There is even a "polar bear jail" for housing problem bears.



Tourists are driven by guides, on very large rubber tired vehicles called "tundra buggies", to prime viewing areas along the shore areas of Hudson Bay. Terrain is very rocky and wet, so the ride is very rough and buggies move at only a walking pace.

In addition the weather was terrible, mostly rainy, just above freezing, wind to 90 km per hour...even the polar bears were hunkered down most of the time! But we were rewarded with some great photo opportunities...and polar bears do show better against brown/green than against snow! Along the way we saw lots of arctic hares, ptarmigan, a flock of rare eider ducks, a red fox (in town!). And we experienced a dog sled ride!

All in all, an exciting few days!

International Digital Challenge Image Submissions

Paul Sparrow

Every year we hold our annual International Digital Competition, which gives us the opportunity to show off our best stuff to another club somewhere else in the world. This year we're competing with the Phoenix Camera Club in the U.S.

We submit 30 images and the Phoenix club will submit 30 images. The total 60 images are judged live in front of both clubs, each by a panel of three judges. This year our judging date is on March 20th.

I want to put the bug in your ear now to submit two of your best images to me so I'll have our submissions early. Depending on how many images I get, I may only use one, so let me know which one is your favourite.

Even though this is some months away we need our images ready to send by the end of February so they can be organized for the respective judging sessions.

If you want to get an idea of what kind of level I'm shooting for check out the Latow web site under the "Gallery" section. Look for the "International Digital Challenge" link and see last year's top scoring images with the Dundalk Photographic Society of Ireland.

Images can be submitted to me at info@latow.com. Just put "Digital Challenge" in the subject line.



The food bank donations from our Christmas Potluck Dinner, gratefully received by the [Partnership West Family Support Network](#).

Marketplace

This is for Black and White film shooters:
Camera: **Nikon EL2**, excellent working condition.

Lens: **Zoom Nikkor 43mm-86mm**, fully workable, no defects.

Filter: for above lens, 52mm Nikon L1BC.

Lens Shade: for above lens, Nikon.

Lens: **Zoom Nikkor 80mm-200mm**, fully workable, no defects.

Filter: For above lens, 52mm, Tiffen, Haze 1.

Lens Caps: For above lens, front and rear.

Nikon Case: For above lens, scruffy old but usable.

Make me a reasonable offer for the stuff, all or part of it.

Contact Joh. Friedrich

(905)634-1635

johfried@sympatico.ca

Manfrotto 804RC2 tripod head. 3-way photo head rated for 4 kg load capacity. Includes quick-release plate. Check it out at [Vistek](#).

Condition: like new. \$50

Contact Frank Myers

(905) 635-8259

fmymers4@gmail.com

Download Discovery

Ort Baldauf

This might be of interest to some Mac users. Today I found a new product on the App Store at Apple, called Snapheal for the Mac, a brand new app by Macphun software for editing your photos and in particular for tidying or removing distracting elements.

Snapheal reproduces and improves on the content aware fill feature of Photoshop and also has clone stamp, exposure, cropping and selective adjustment features.

It's very affordable at its launch price of \$9.99 and it's better than buying the new Photoshop CS5 for \$600 plus. It has three different types of content aware fill, which is a positive, but on the negative I found that it took a fair bit of time to complete the job.

You can learn more [here](#). I think it's an app that's worth the money.

3 Club AV Show Submissions

Paul Sparrow

February 3rd we'll again see our annual multi-club wine & cheese exhibition of prints and AV shows. Again I'll be putting the AV portion of the show together and need your **best** images to show off Latow's work.

I'm looking for images in the nature, people, cityscapes vein, as well as pictorial and abstract manipulations.

If you also have groups of images of a particular subject, then I can possibly create sequences around them. Also multiple action frames are useful to create animated sequences.

All images submitted should be at the standard Evaluation specs.

You can give me a CD with your submissions during one of the meetings or e-mail them to me at info@latow.com . Please put "3-Club Images" in the subject line.

I need all the images submitted by no later than January 17th. THE SOONER THE BETTER as I need to start producing the show immediately after the new year.

Thanks and I'm looking forward to seeing your work.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION OF PROJECTED IMAGES AND PRINTS
Presented by:
HAMILTON CAMERA CLUB
LATOW PHOTOGRAPHERS GUILD
TRILLIUM PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Saturday February 4, 2012
7:00PM
BURLINGTON ART CENTRE
1333 Lakeshore Road
Burlington, Ontario

Light refreshments provided
Drinks available for purchase

Don't miss this gala event!
Admission: \$15.00 or \$25 per couple
Tickets on sale January 3, 2012

Black and White Group

Don Mallory, B & W Group Coordinator

With the December cold breezes, we were also treated to 7 little elves working busily away in the darkroom.

Unfortunately, I have to limit film developing to 7 people, because we also had them developing 3 tanks of films each, that's 21 separate tank sets. Now, with the loan of some larger sized tanks, we were able to cut it down a little, but either way, it's pretty exciting to have 63 graduates, all measured and ready-to-go, followed by the simultaneous, slosh, slosh, slosh, bang, bang, wait.... repeat...

Leo Davis did a great job of explaining the process of push processing (over-development, from under-exposed film) and pull processing (under-development of over-exposed film) and showing examples of the differences of impact of each process.

Leo brings a great many years of darkroom experience, and has an innate ability to make difficult processes seem simple. The feedback from all in attendance for the hands-on portion, as well as those who attended in an auditing capacity was quite positive.

In February we will return, and will try our luck at combining negatives to produce compound images. Once again, the session will be hands-on. Space will be limited to 11 able bodies, please bring negatives, and imagination.

Digital Group – Jan. 17th

Paul Sparrow, Digital Group Coordinator

Lightroom has become one of the premier software solutions for photographers to quickly process mass numbers of files.

This month we take a look at this flexible software and Ed Eastman will demonstrate how to get the most out of the Develop Module.

Whether he is an artist or not, the photographer is a joyous sensualist, for the simple reason that the eye traffics in feelings, not in thoughts.

Walker Evans

Tech Talk

Digital Image Management and Editing Software

Bob Walling

In the days of colour slides, editing consisted of remounting in slide mounts smaller dimensions for cropping, but in today's digital world editing is done via computer software and can be quite extensive.

Image management used to consist of boxes or trays or plastic sleeves. Today we have sophisticated software to manage image storage.

Digital editors allow us to make extensive changes to an image, with full control over exposure, contrast, sharpness and innumerable effects.

Digital managers provide organizational techniques for our images, with such features as keywords and ratings as well as a full monitor of thumbnail images or individual full screen images and basic editing.

The current thinking is to assume that Photoshop and Lightroom are the only software being used.

This is not true, as there are many alternatives to these programs.

Photoshop is an excellent digital editor, originally designed for graphics artists, but it is a very difficult program to learn and not at all intuitive. In my opinion Lightroom falls into the same category.

No one tells the novice he or she doesn't have to pay up to \$1,200 just to get software to manage and edit images. The table below shows that for from \$40 to \$190, you can obtain software that will do 99% of what the Photoshop and Lightroom duo can do and most of this software is more "user friendly".

Please note all costs are approximate and my knowledge of Macintosh software is somewhat sketchy. I'm sure Apple provides software comparable to the Microsoft products mentioned and there are probably also many free Mac items.

Digital Image Management and Editing Software Comparison							
	Cost	Windows	Apple	Manager	Editor	Level	User Friendly
Adobe							
Photoshop	\$900	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Advanced	No
Photoshop Elements	\$90	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Basic	Yes
Lightroom	\$300	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Advanced	No
Corel							
Paintshop Pro	\$40	Yes	No	No	Yes	Advanced with help features	Yes
Photopaint	\$199	Yes	No	No	Yes	Advanced, part of Corel Draw suite	No
Microsoft							
Paint	NA	Yes	No	No	Yes	Basic	??
Windows Explorer	NA	Yes	No	Yes	No	Basic	Yes
ACDSee							
ACDSee Pro	\$150	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Basic to Advanced	Yes
ACDSee 14	\$80	Yes	No	Yes	No	Basic	Yes
Freebies							
Irfanview	Free	Yes	No	Yes	No	Basic	Yes
Gimp	Free	Yes	??	No	Yes	Advanced	No
Picasso	Free	Yes	??	No	Yes	Basic	Yes
Mac							
Aperture	\$200	No	Yes	Yes	No	Advanced	??

January at a Glance

Tuesday, Jan. 3	General Meeting: Evaluation #2 results
Thursday, Jan. 12	Board Meeting.
Group Meetings:	
Tuesday, Jan. 10	New Exposures: Constructive critiques on your images
Tuesday, Jan. 17	Digital Group: Lightroom Develop Module with Ed Eastman Evaluation entries due!
Tuesday, Jan. 24	Studio Group: Shooting food
Tuesday, Jan. 31	Bonus Tuesday: Louis Helbig's aerial art. Public welcome. (Rotary & Lakeshore Rooms)

On the Web

From Wayne Elliott:

Here's a self-explanatory website. It is a camera simulator. You choose the aperture, speed, ISO, focal length, distance and lighting and then take a photograph and check out the results. Great learning tool and just plain cool! You can find it [here](#).

From Atchuta Alapati:

Have you ever taken a picture that is out of focus? Have you ever thought about having a faster and accurate autofocus system in your camera? Check out [Lytro](#). Sure! it is not same as SLR camera, but, it lets you refocus any part of the image after the picture has been taken.

From Frank Myers:

For finding the best price on cameras and gear, you can't beat [Photoprice.ca](#). This site compares prices at major Canadian and American stores, factoring in up-to-date exchange rates, duty, taxes, rebates and shipping for accurate comparison shopping.

Hardening of the categories causes art disease.

W. Eugene Smith



Painted Dunes by **Alida Van Halderen** received an Honourable Mention and score of 24 in the September evaluations.

A word or two from the editor:

We hope you are enjoying the new features that have been added to your newsletter:

- **Marguerite Botting** has produced her second very excellent profile. I'm certain we'll continue to enjoy these explorations into the lives and photography of Latow members.
- This month's travelogue by **Gary Beaudoin** will inspire many to consider a truly unusual photographic destination in Canada's north.
- **Bob Walling's** technical article provides some very useful analysis of the more inexpensive image management and editing software.

These new features will continue only with your input and contributions. If you know of a member who should be featured in one of our profiles, please see Marguerite or me with your suggestion. To contribute a travelogue or technical article, get in touch with me to discuss content and availability of space.

Please contact the editor [Frank Myers](#) by email, speak with me at a Latow meeting, or call 905-635-8259.



In the September Evaluations, *Distant Signal* by **Ron Savoline** earned an Honourable Mention and a score of 25.

Latow Board

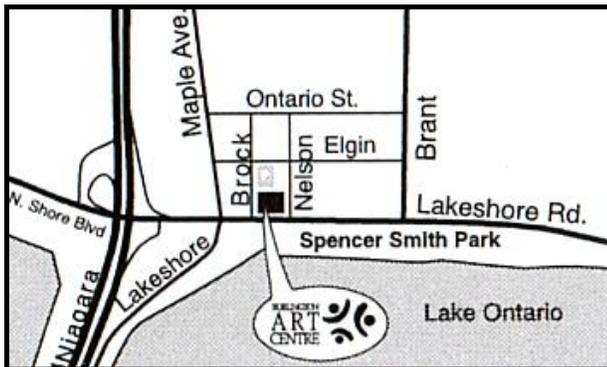
President	Tom Stephens
Vice-President	Wayne Elliott
Secretary	Debbie Forbes
Treasurer	Peter Schulze
Past-President	Toni Browning
Directors	Frank Myers Bob Walling Atchuta Alapati Marguerite Botting Ort Baldauf

About Latow Photographers Guild

We meet every Tuesday night at 7:30pm from September to June at the [Burlington Art Centre](#). General meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month and the group meetings on the following Tuesdays each month.

Board meetings are held monthly and any Latow member in good standing is welcome to attend.

For more information about Latow, visit our [website](#) and to contact any of the board members or group/activity coordinators, send an email to info@latow.com.



Group and Activity Coordinators

Annual Seminar	Wayne Elliott
Arts Burlington	Dave Lawson/ Glen Jones
AV Festival	Paul Sparrow
B & W Group	Don Mallory
BAC Communications	Ort Baldauf
CAPA	Bob Walling
Christmas Potluck	Toni & Bill Browning
Christmas Sale	Virginia Stranaghan & Bill Browning
Darkroom Lockers	Paul MacDiarmid
Darkroom Maintenance	Bill Warren
Digital Group	Paul Sparrow
Evaluations	Virginia Stranaghan
Fine Art & Craft Festival	Keith Marshall
Fireside Displays, Group/Individual	Bill Warren/ Ed Franko
Three-Club Display	Bob Walling
Juried Show	Keith Marshall
Kaleidoscope	Dave Lawson
Membership	Sandi Yacobucci
New Exposures	Peter Young
Newsletter	Frank Myers
One Day in the Life of Burlington	Paul Sparrow Toni & Bill Browning
Outings	Bob Walling
Photo Art Group	Joh Friedrich
Studio Group	Arthur Goeldner
Volunteer hours	Ort Baldauf
Website	Paul Sparrow

