CCO...to study and promote photography in all its branches... since 1894

Shutter Release

Journal of the Camera Club of Ottawa

March 2025

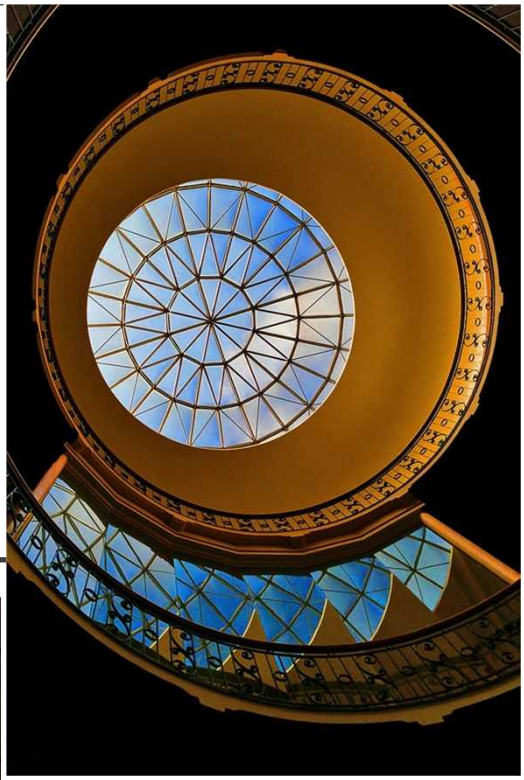
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

One of Ontario's Most Unique Parks: Burnt Lands **Page 6**

Thoughts on Entering Nature Photo Competitions **Page 8**

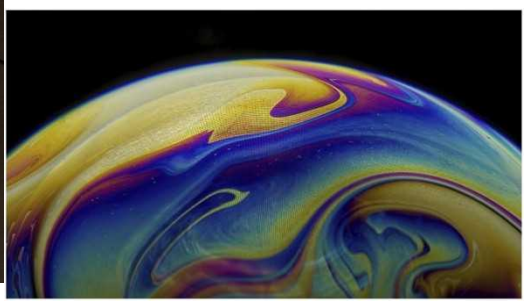
Slides Competition #2 **Page 10**

Slides Competition #3 **Page 15**



Dan Jones

Douglas Harvey



Catherine Gardner

Contributors

Thanks to all the contributors:
Simon Gardner, Kevin Reynolds

Cover Image

White on White, Amy Kagerer
Award of Excellence, Slides 3

Back Cover Image

Legs Crossed Reflection
Susan Allenby
Honourable Mention, Slides 2

Editor

Diane Holmes

Association Membership

Camera Club of Ottawa is a Member of CAPA, the Canadian Association for Photographic Arts.

Journal Copyright

Shutter Release is the journal of the Camera Club of Ottawa. Copyright © Camera Club of Ottawa, 2024, All rights reserved.

Next edition submission deadline

May 15, 2025

Find CCO On-line

www.cameraclubottawa.com

About the Club

Popular photography was still in its infancy when a group of enthusiasts formed the Camera Club of Ottawa in 1894. The organizers set as their objective "...to study and promote the art of photography in all its branches". Although it was a primitive art form at the time, club members soon gained competence and recognition in international salon competition.

Today, we maintain that objective. We strive to offer a variety of programs from regular meetings, competitions, workshops, field-trips and informal outings, to satisfy as many interests in photography as possible.

CCO Contact Information

President, Catherine Gardner
president@cameraclubottawa.ca

Treasurer & Membership Secretary, Niels Rasmussen
treasurer@cameraclubottawa.ca

Upcoming Events

March 4, 2025 - Member Presentations

March 11, 2025 - Slide Competition #4

March 18, 2025 - Workshop: Portraits with Studio Lights

March 25, 2025 - Rain Hayes - Shooting in IR & UV

April 1, 2025 - Interclub Competition - RA Centre

April 8, 2025 - Workshop: Medium & Large Format

April 15, 2025 - Print Competition #4: Portraits/Open

April 22, 2025 - Slide Competition #5: Nature/Open

April 29, 2025 - Challenges/Outings Presentations

May 6, 2025 - Demystifying AI in Photography

May 13, 2025 - Workshop: Monochrome Conversions

May 20, 2025 - Annual General Meeting

May 27, 2025 - End of Season Potluck & Awards

Membership

Benefits: Speakers, workshops, regular meetings, competitions, outings, special interest groups, friends, social activity, club membership in CAPA, ample opportunity for learning and mentoring, and...the joy of being around photographers.

Joining is easy: Go to www.cameraclubottawa.com and choose the Membership Information tab. Scroll down for instructions, read the Code of Conduct, complete the Membership Application, create a User Account. You'll get a welcome letter with more information and helpful links.

Diane Holmes

Dan Jones

Ellen Chassé

Masuma Rahimtula

How to Submit an Article to Shutter Release

Write your article in Word, a plain text file or even cut and paste the text into an email. Send the images by WeTransfer.com. It's free!

Articles can be as long or short as you like, and it doesn't have to be complicated or expertly written! If your article is about a trip you took, include where you went, special places you visited there and what you saw. If it is about a technique you like to use, include your camera type, settings, equipment you used and some images of your set up.

If you miss the deadline for the current issue, there is always another issue coming out.

Kevin Reynolds

Peter Frank

Carrie Fish

Diane Holmes

Janice Street

Claire Lepage

Rebecca Anderson

John Law

Ed Luinstra

Konrad Wee

Darrell Larose

Craig Maskell

One of Ontario's Most Unique Parks: Burnt Lands

Simon Gardner

If you tell someone your heading off to photograph in an Ontario Provincial Park, they'll probably assume your talking about Algonquin or some other large wilderness area complete with park staff, visitor facilities and entry fees.

Burnt Lands Provincial Park is not that place and has none of the above-mentioned features.

Located between Ottawa and Almonte, the park is very small covering only 516 hectares.

The parking area, if you can even call it that, can accommodate two vehicles, perhaps three compact models in a squeeze. But that doesn't seem to matter because hardly anyone visits except for the occasional person taking their dog for a walk.

Driving by Burnt Lands takes only about one minute, and most people probably don't realize they are passing one of North America's most unusual geographic areas. In my opinion, this area has a great deal of photographic potential.

Burnt Lands is an Alvar, an area with a limestone base covered by very thin vegetation, such as moss or shrubs.

The habitat of Burnt Lands gives life to a wide variety of plants and wildlife.

If you are interested in photographing spiders, beetles, dragonflies, and especially snails, this is a good place to visit.

I'm reliably informed that Burnt Lands is also home to a large number of birds although I'm not sure they are easy to photograph.

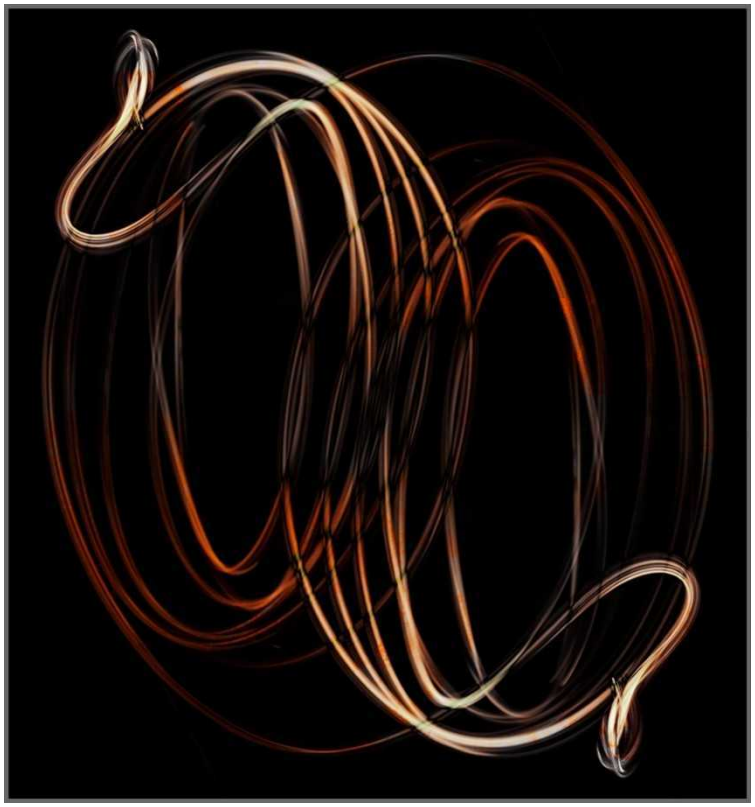
Since moving to Kanata North, I've become a regular visitor to Burnt Lands. At first, the park can seem like a waste of time in photographic terms, but if you just wander around you are, sooner or later, bound to see something worth taking a picture of.

The place is worth visiting even without a camera. If you feel like just going for a walk and being completely alone you would be hard-pressed to find a better spot.

It's worth mentioning that Burnt Lands is a relatively new park. Before becoming a protected area, it was used for military purposes. This is evident because there is an abandoned communications shed in the park that was a relay station for the underground nuclear shelter located in nearby Carp, known today as the Diefenbunker Museum.

The communications shed is unfortunately welded shut, but I noticed there are YouTube Videos showing what is inside.

I recently got an HM for a photograph of the outside of the shed so I guess even that has some photographic potential. LOL



Tony DeLuca

Burnt Lands Provincial Park - Simon Gardner

Thoughts on Entering Nature Photo Competitions

Kevin Reynolds

Having fallen prey to flattery from our crafty newsletter editor, I am now on the hook for an article on nature photo contests - so here goes nothing. My experience so far is limited but recent; I entered several contests last summer and through that process have some thoughts I can share.

First and foremost is that, at least for the free contests, I believe you should be motivated by a desire to support the contest sponsor rather than by a hope to win a prize (most of the free contests are put on by non-profit organizations that are interested in a source of images that they can use). I was lucky enough to get a runner-up award in the Canadian Geographic contest, and would love to say it was due to my stupendous photography skills, but the reality is that this contest gets 10,000 to 15,000 entries each year and I can guarantee that another set of judges would have picked a different image. Other than a generic 'thanks for contributing' I got no recognition or feedback from the many other images I sent to that or other contests, but I am happy knowing that they now have those images to use for their cause if needed. And with this mindset I will be happy to contribute again knowing that any recognition is an unexpected and unlikely bonus!

So, moving on to what you might do to increase the chances of an image being both useful and having some possibility of being recognized. From looking at previous contest results and knowing a bit about the organizations, I believe that first and foremost the images must tell an interesting story. The goals of these organizations are to expand knowledge and interest in nature, and an arresting image that illustrates something that is not commonly seen (species, activity, environment, etc) is of much more use and more likely to be recognized than one that is picture perfect but tells a weak story. Certainly my picture has a number of "flaws" that could theoretically be corrected in post processing, but they do not detract from the story and have minimal effect on the impact of the image.

Which brings me to contest rules. While each contest is different, there were a few fairly common threads across most of the contests that you should keep in mind when out taking pictures. First and very significant is the post processing 'add nothing, remove nothing' rule which you need to consider when composing in the field. For example, this contest specifically specifies that post processing is to be limited to colour and tone corrections and cropping (I also used denoising and sharpening which they didn't complain about). You can't 'clean up' images by removing things, and they will verify. I was first informed that I was just a candidate pending completion of a form certifying where and how I got and processed the picture, and providing the raw file for verification. Once they reviewed these and were satisfied, they got back to me and confirmed the award.

Another rule that seems to be broadly used is that images must be of "wild" things. I don't think this excludes habituated animals, but I do expect that plants in gardens or plantations, or animals in zoos or game parks would be out of bounds. And baiting is also off limits. However wild certainly doesn't have to mean wilderness; I got my photo in the local Ottawa area, so you don't have to go on major expeditions or live in the Yukon to be able to get nature shots worthy of submission to a photo contest.

If you are looking for a purpose for your nature photographs and have a few that are somewhat unique, I would encourage you to try submitting to these sorts of contests. Canadian examples include:

- Canadian Geographic

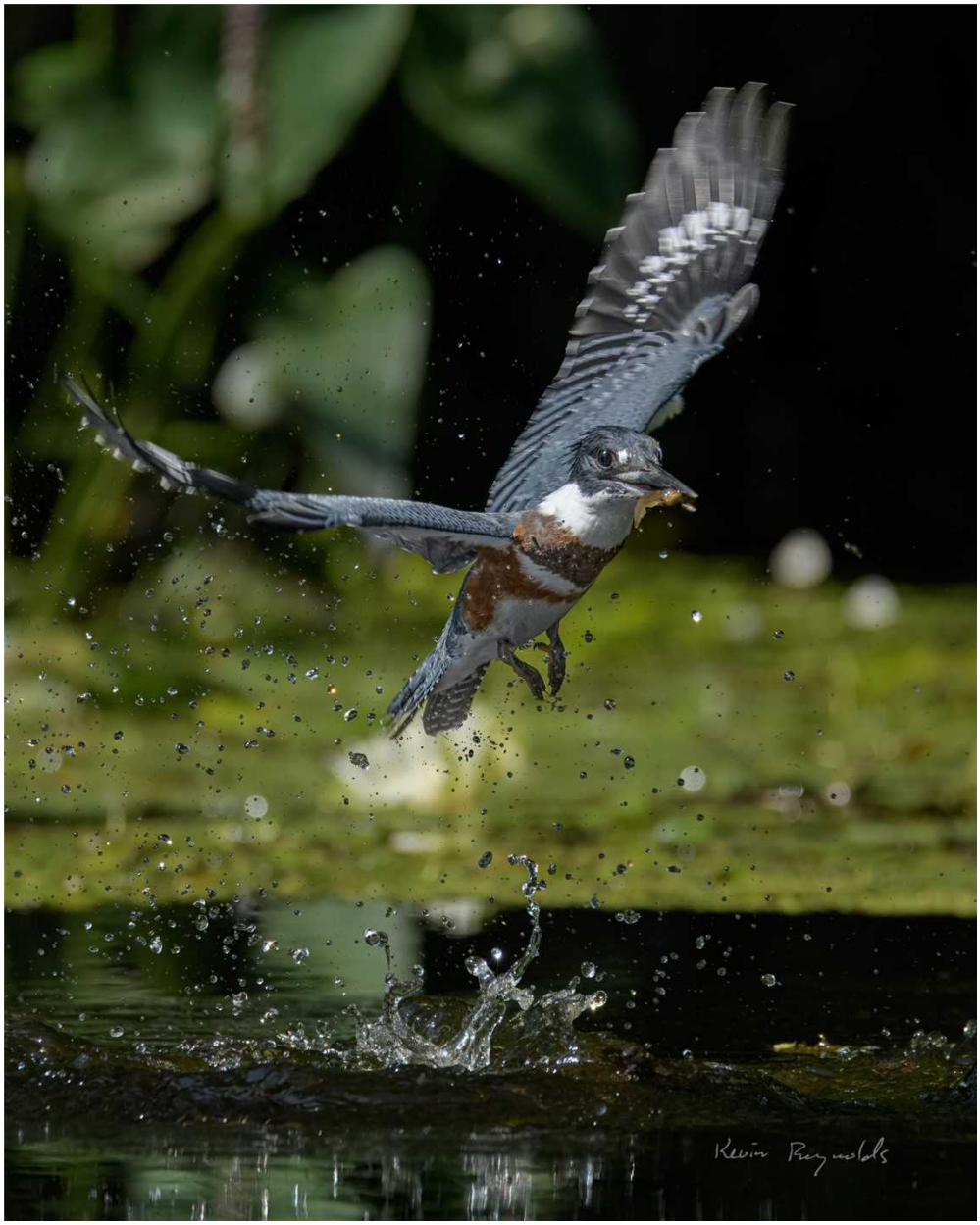
- Nature Canada

- Canadian Wildlife Federation

- Birds Canada

- Living Lakes

I will wrap up this article without getting into the ins and outs of how this Kingfisher photo came to be, but if you would like to share in an ongoing exchange of knowledge and experiences about nature photography I would encourage you to join the CCO Nature SIG!



Runner-Up, Canadian Geographic Nature Photography Competition
Kevin Reynolds

Alex Roussakis

René Bastien

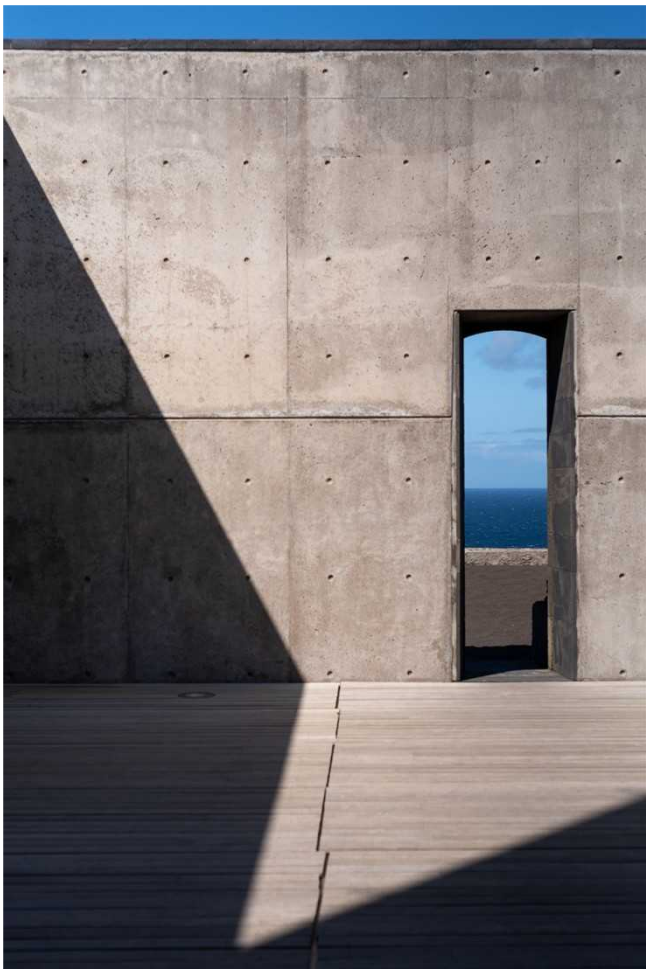
Slides Competition #2

Topic - Architecture

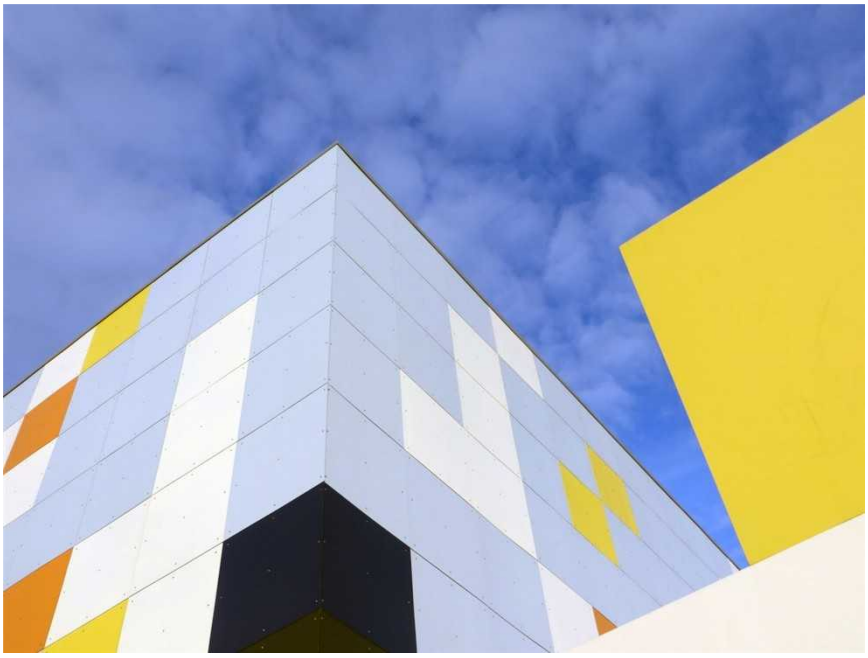
Award of Excellence: René Bastien, Tessy Morelli, Amy Kagerer, Masuma Rahimtula, Douglas Harvey, Niels Rasmussen, Dan Jones, Bruce Amos

Honourable Mention: Gary Thayer, Diane Holmes, René Bastien, Rebecca Anderson, Tessy Morelli, Alex Roussakis, Bruce Amos, Michele Baddoo, Tony DeLuca, Douglas Harvey, Kevin Reynolds, Ed Luinstra, Dan Jones, Craig Maskell, Peter Frank

Amy Kagerer



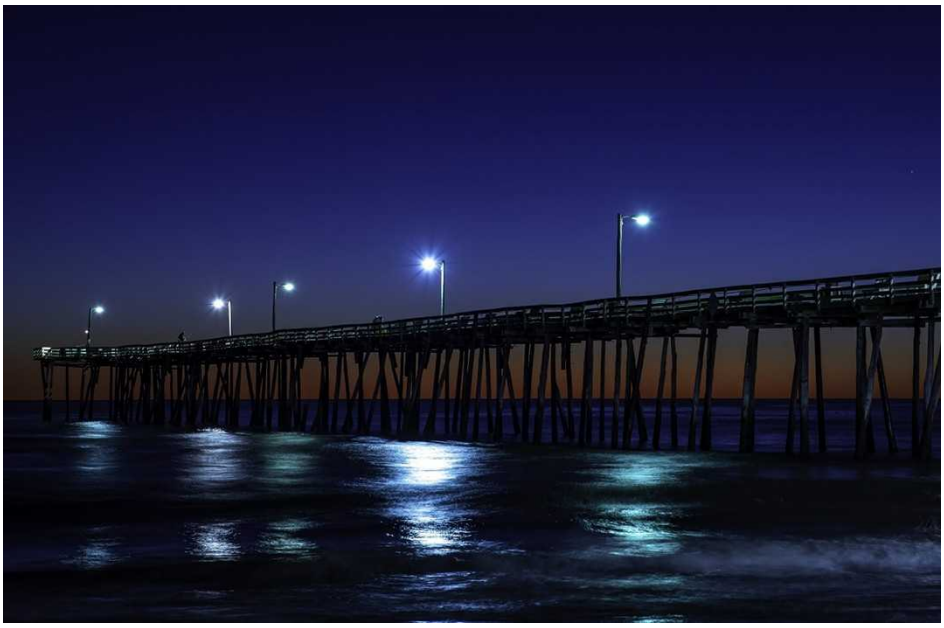
Tessy Morelli



Bruce Amos

Slides Competition #2

Masuma Rahimtula

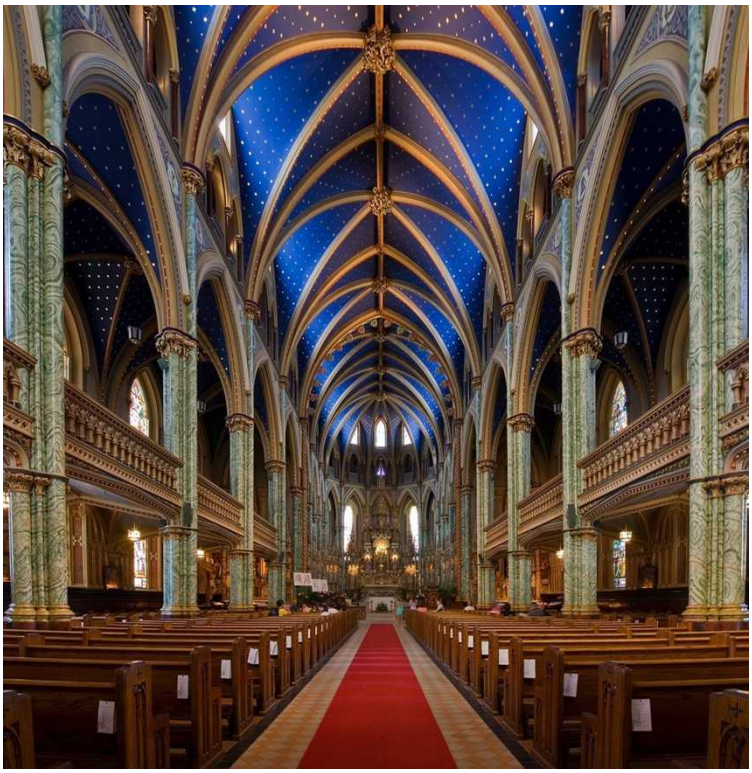


René Bastien

Harvey Douglas

Slides Competition #2

Amy Kagerer



Dan Jones

Niels Rasmussen

Slides Competition #2

Topic - Open

Award of Excellence: Gary Thayer, Amy Kagerer, Simon Gardner, Susan Allenby, Konrad Wee
Honourable Mention: Gary Thayer, Carol Hart, Amy Kagerer, Claire Lepage, Tony DeLuca, Janice Street,

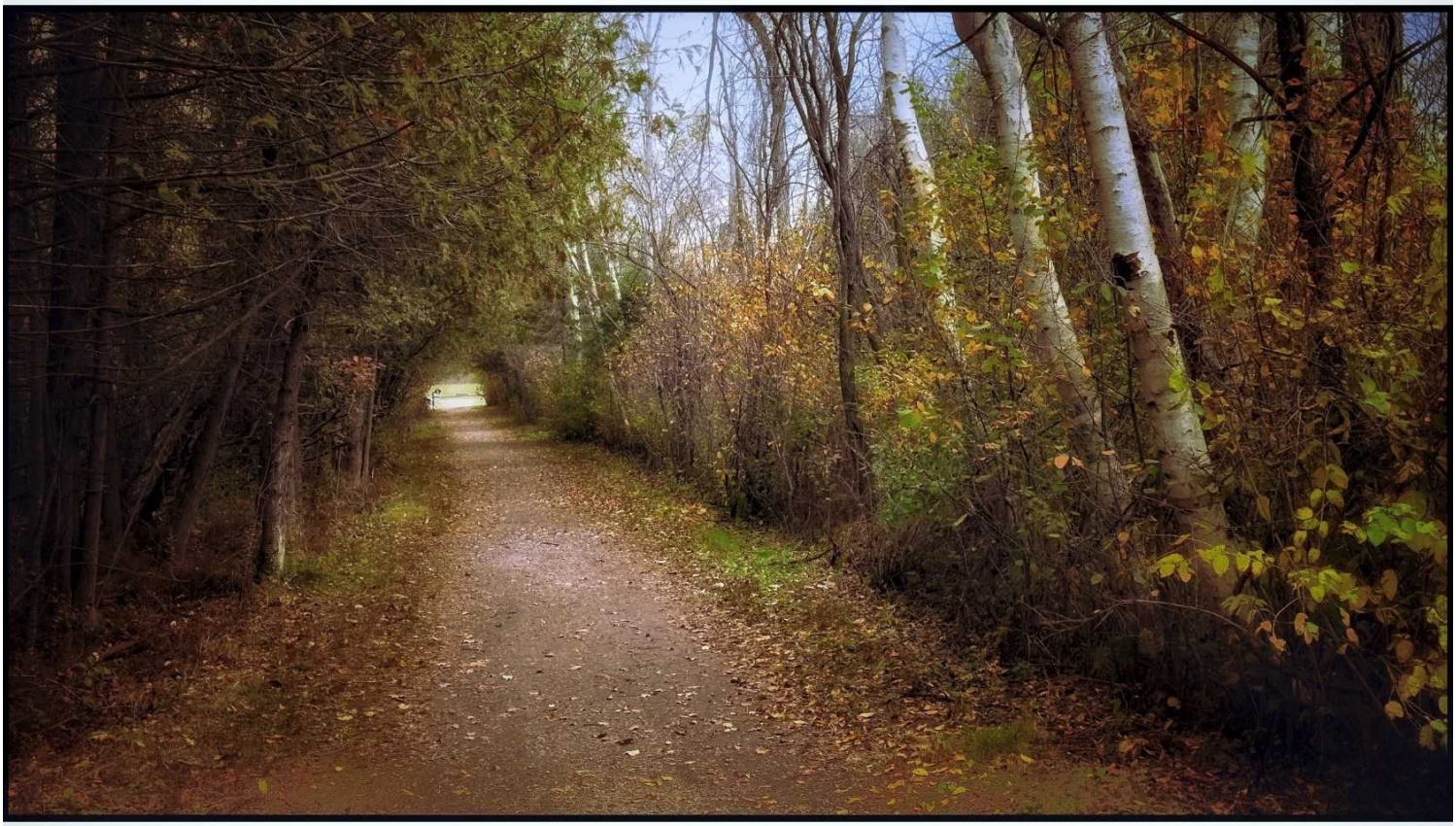
Simon Gardner

Konrad Wee

Susan Allenby

Slides Competition #2

Amy Kagerer



Gary Thayer

Slides Competition #3

Topic - Negative Space

Award of Excellence: Rebecca Anderson, Michele Baddoo, Lynn Dion, Mitch Gosselin, Douglas Harvey, Amy Kagerer, Julie Rollinson

Honourable Mention: Rebecca Anderson, René Bastien, Ellen Chassé, Lynn Dion, Ian Doris, Cherie Fish, Mitch Gosselin, Dan Jones, Amy Kagerer, Darrell Larose, Ed Luinstra, Craig Maskell, Tessy Morelli, Masuma Rahimtula, Kevin Reynolds, Alex Roussakis, Jim Shields, Lois Sowden-Plukett, Gary Thayer, Konrad Wee

Rebecca Anderson

Mitch Gosselin

Slides Competition #3

Harvey Douglas

Michele Baddoo

Mitch Gosselin

Slides Competition #3

Lynn Dion

Michele Baddoo

Julie Rollinson

Slides Competition #3

Topic - Open

Award of Excellence:
Susan Allenby, Catherine Gardner, Simon Gardner, Douglas Harvey, Darrell Larose, Ed Luinstra, Julie Rollinson

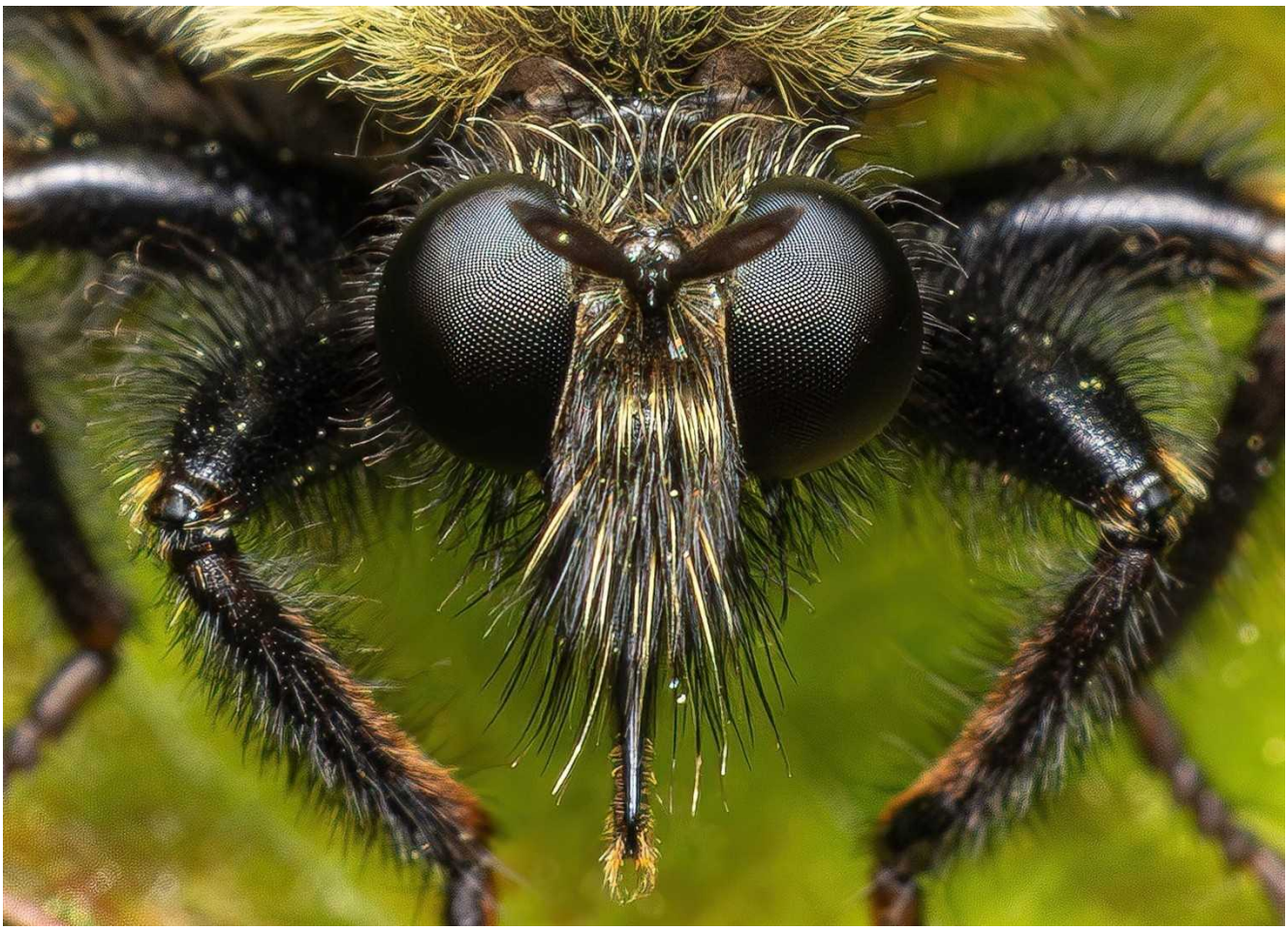
Honourable Mention:
Susan Allenby, Ian Doris, Cherie Fish, Peter Frank, Catherine Gardner, Simon Gardner, Douglas Harvey, Diane Holmes, Amy Kagerer, John Law, Claire Lepage, Ed Luinstra, Craig Maskell, Julie Rollinson, Konrad Wee

Julie Rollinson

Douglas Harvey

Slides Competition #3

Susan Allenby



Ed Luinstra

Slides Competition #3

Simon Gardner

Darrell Larose

Catherine Gardner