

2017 SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

David Akoubian (NC) has been a photographer since 1972 but his career in photography started in 1992 learning his craft originally as a painter and from his father. Early in his career he traveled with, learned from and taught beside some of the masters of nature photography including John Shaw, Art Wolfe, Galen Rowell, Bryan Peterson and Rod Planck. Though his focus remains on the Southeastern United States, where he calls home, he has been lecturing and leading workshops throughout the United States since 1994. His clients have included, but are not limited to Coca Cola, PNC Bank, Tamron, the Mountain Conservation Trust of Georgia, Lensbaby, and The Nature Conservancy. His photographs and articles have appeared in publications such as Nature Photographer, Audubon Magazine, Birder's World, Outdoor Photographer, Backpacker Magazine, and many local publications and his work has appeared in several feature books in addition to instructional guides on scenic locations. David is a Tamron Image Master as well as being designated as a Sirui Professional. www.bearwoodsphotography.com (Sponsored by Tamron)

Nikhil Bahl (MD) is a full time professional photographer, author, educator and environmentalist. Drawing inspiration from nature, Nikhil adopts novel approaches to create photographs that transcend the commonplace and convey an enchantment of the subject's beauty. An offshoot of Nikhil's fine art photography and love of nature is his documentation of wildlife behaviors and habitats. As a volunteer with the National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, his goal is to portray environmental stories with an artistic appeal, so his photographs educate and motivate about the imperative need of conservation. An instructional workshop and tour leader throughout the United States and abroad, he is also a popular speaker at photography clubs, expos and industry events. The author of the acclaimed EBook, 'Creative Interpretations', he writes articles on the creative and technical aspects of photography. Nikhil's work has been published in several media and his fine art prints have been widely exhibited in the Washington metropolitan area, and are part of many private collections. www.nikhilbahl.com

John Barclay (PA) is an award winning freelance photographer based in Bucks County, PA. A passionate photographer and enthusiastic workshop leader, he is also an inspirational speaker, presenting his programs and leading workshops to audiences around the world. John's work has been published in a number of books and magazines and is treasured by a number of private collectors. Recently, John was the recipient of an excellence award from B&W Magazine and was chosen by Dewitt Jones to participate in his www.healingimages.org program. John is respected for his processing knowledge and well known for his Topaz Software webinars. **Door prizes for John's presentations were provided by Topaz.** You can see his work and view his workshop schedule at www.barclayphoto.com (Sponsored by Athentech - Perfectly Clear & Topaz)

William Barnett APSA, GMPSA, AFIAP, MNEC (CT) is a frequent lecturer and judge for camera clubs throughout New England. He is a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), the New Haven Camera Club, and the Connecticut Association of Photographers and is a VP on the NECCC Executive Board in charge of the Interclub Projected Image Competitions. For his work on behalf of the photographic community, he was elected an "Associate" (APSA) by PSA, and "Master Member" (MNEC) by the New England Camera Club Council and for his photographic skills he has received the distinction of "Grand Master" (GMPSA) from PSA and "Artiste" (AFIAP) from the Federation Internationale de L'Art Photographique. Bill is a multi star, diamond and galaxy exhibitor in PSA International Exhibitions in four divisions and has earned numerous awards both locally and internationally. He has written multiple feature articles for the PSA "Journal" and his work was featured in a "Distinctive Image" author article. In the last few years he has been pursuing a hybrid approach to his photography where stills, video clips, and sound files are combined to create essays and travel presentations with more production values than is possible using only still photographs. Along with his camera college presentation, "The Travel Photographers iPhone", Bill is one of the three 2017 pre-conference portfolio reviewers. <https://vimeo.com/wbarnett>

Cheryl Belczak (NY) began her career in marketing planning and copywriting. Viewing marketing as business-centered art (and spurred by a love of learning and creating) sparked her transition into graphic design. Then, it quickly became clear that photographs provide the visual power in a layout. Messages are much more powerful with a strong image! So, exploring photography began as a way to enhance her professional value... And quickly became an interest that dominated her thoughts and stirred her imagination. She enjoys learning, experimenting and sharing her work, ideas and methods. Cheryl lives with her husband and two boys while using any spare second to shoot, share and teach photography. **Cheryl is also doing a “hands on” session to go with her presentation on photographing glass in Photo ops room CC 170 (lower level) on Saturday -1-4:30 PM.** TypicalCheryl.com

Shawn Carey (MA) is the co-founder of “Migration Productions” which is a team of audio-visual specialists brought together to create the highest quality media about birds, bird watchers and other natural history topics. He has been photographing birds and other wildlife for over 20 years. A popular presenter at birding organizations and camera clubs, he is a member of and board of director for several organizations. Shawn is on the board of directors for *Eastern Mass HawkWatch* where he serves as their Vice President, on the advisory board for the *Massachusetts Audubon Society* and *Mass Audubon Museum of American Bird Art*, a past board member for the *Brookline Bird Club*, past council member for the *Nuttall Ornithological Club* and a member of the South Shore Camera Club, South Shore Bird Club, and the American Birding Assoc.. His photos have been published in the Boston Globe, New York Times, Mass Audubon Sanctuary magazine, Science magazine, and many others over the last 20 years. Shawn states: "I LOVE the natural world; if it walks, crawls, flies, swims or slithers...I'll photograph it!" www.MigrationProductions.com

Karen Choi (MA) is a past member of the Merrimack Valley Camera Club and a current member of the Greater Lynn Photographic Association (GLPA) since 2009 where she competes at the Masters Class level in both prints and projected images. She majored in Art at Montserrat School of Visual Art before pursuing a degree in Business. In addition to photography, Karen has a passion for watercolor painting, oil painting and stained glass. She loves shooting portraits, HDR photography, architecture, flowers and making creative images. She has presented several programs in the use of textures and blend modes as well as creative photography and leads the Creative Group at GLPA. She has won numerous medals and awards, locally, in Interclub Competitions, and in International Exhibitions and has judged at the camera club, state, council, and international exhibition competition levels. www.karenchoiphotography.com

Vinny Colucci (NC) is an award - winning professional photographer since 1995 who has photographed throughout the United States and north to the Canadian Rockies and who along with his wife Annette conducts nature and wildlife photography workshops and seminars. An author and co-author of multiple books, his images have appeared in multiple publications, including Nature Photographer Magazine, New Bern Travel Magazine and various other publications. His speaking engagements have included Popular Photography Magazine and presentations at REI, St. Augustine Photo & Birding Festival, Orlando Wetlands Festival, Crane Festival and several universities around the country. He is an active outdoorsman and a member of **Nikon's Professional Services, Wimberley Professional Services**, a sponsored **Mindshift / Think Tank Photographer** and a **Singh-Ray Filter Technical Advisor**. In addition to his camera college presentation “Photographing Mammals in the Wild” Vinny, with his wife Annette presented a pre-conference workshop. **Door Prizes for his preconference class were provided by: Wimberly; Singh-Ray & Nikon Professional Services** www.escapetonaturephotography.com

Annette Colucci (NC) has photographed from the east coast to the west coast. Winning multiple awards for her work in the Smoky Mountains and North Carolina mountain region, she has been published several times in Nature Photographer Magazine. Annette is also part of Wimberley Professional Services as well as helping her husband, Vinny test Singh-Ray filters. Vinny and Annette were pre-conference presenters with a “Digital Boot Camp”. www.escapetonaturephotography.com

Mike Dziak (NY) has been shooting sports and action photography since the 1990s. As one of the 1000 professional sports photographers who photographed the World University Games in Buffalo, NY in 1994, he was one of only six photographers who had access to the inside field for track and field competitions. Along with the track and field, Mike also photographed athletes from around the world in multiple events including baseball, soccer, swimming, diving, rowing, and tennis. Some of his other assignments have included the Buffalo Bills at the AFL Championship games, the

Buffalo Blizzard soccer team, NASCAR Racing, March Madness Basketball, and numerous college sporting events.

www.mikedziakphotography.com

Joe Edelman (PA) is an award-winning editorial, corporate, and advertising photographer, educator and model mentor whose career has spanned four decades, from his start as a newspaper photojournalist to his work today photographing all types of people for commercial clients and working as an educator and mentor to young talented photographers. In addition to his role as photographer, Joe takes great pride in sharing his knowledge via his popular YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/PhotoJoeEdelman> Joe has received both state and national awards for fashion photography and his work has been published in magazines like Maxim, Cosmopolitan, Get Fit and Shape. He has also been called upon to complete assignments for both the New York Times and The Los Angeles Times and has serviced commercial advertising clients from all over the United States. A popular instructor and lecturer at camera clubs, photography events, Professional Photographers Assoc. (PPA) events and photography workshops across the United States, he is also an adjunct professor teaching about “The Art of Seeing” at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. In addition to his role as a photographer, he is the author of the popular modeling advice website ModelingTip.com and is recognized as an innovator in shaping models portfolios, helping them develop a modeling career and advising them about how to market themselves and he is often sought out as a source on the subject for television stories as well as newspaper and magazine articles. This has made him very proficient in the many Social Media outlets. Along with his camera college presentation “Portraits that Flatter” Joe presented a pre-conference workshop on “Social Media for Photographers”.

www.JoeEdelman.com

Cemal Ekin, MNEC (RI) retired from Providence College in 2012 as Professor Emeritus. He states, “Teaching has been a great experience, affected my photography, and how I share what I know with others. That, in turn has helped me to learn more about photography, my photography, and the art of photography.” He has been involved in photography over 60 years, but digital photography has been a fertile ground for him since the early 1990s, learning the tools of this new world, Photoshop, and later, Lightroom, striving to produce work that is free from processing artifacts and looks “effortlessly done.” My photographs present my vision and I keep an open mind about making all necessary adjustments to my photographs to convey my vision”. He enjoys sharing what he knows in presentations, workshops, private mentoring and tutorials. Cemal has had ten solo exhibits in three cities; issued limited and open edition folios; and published photo books and magazines featuring his work. His prints can be found in public and private collections in the USA and abroad and he is included in the first edition of International Masters of Photography, 2012. Festival Ballet Providence commissioned an original ballet *Orchis*, inspired by and featuring a collection of my photographs of dried orchids. Cemal was a pre-conference presenter with a hands on workshop "Art of the Fine Print".

www.keptlight.com (Sponsored by Red River Paper)

André Gallant, ANEC, (Canada) is a freelance photographer and author from Saint John, New Brunswick who travels the world over, taking expressive and creative photographs. He is the author of several popular photography books including *Innovation, Inspiration, Expressionism, Destinations* and *Dreamscapes*. André teaches photography workshops in New Brunswick, Canada with Freeman Patterson, conducts workshops on his own in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia and lectures internationally and throughout Canada, his home, and the United States. His work has appeared in numerous magazines such as *Outdoor Photographer, Canadian Camera, Canadian Gardening, Canadian Living, Gardening Life* and he has been the recipient of two National Magazine Awards for his photography. www.andregallant.com

(Sponsored by Nikon)

Rick Gerrity (NJ) has been a published, professional photographer based in the New York-New Jersey metro area for over 30 years who is the owner of Gerrity Photographic Inc/Rick Gerrity Photography. He specializes in people, product, location and street photography throughout the United States and Canada and has a passion for transforming seemingly ordinary, everyday moments into extraordinary images. His images include Paul Newman, Sylvester Stallone and Oliver Stone, as well as real life reflections of street life in America’s cities and towns which he calls, “Hybrid photography at its best- video and stills combined for the ultimate storytelling experience.” Rick’s commercial images include work for such popular companies as BMW, Panasonic, IBM, Sony and Oleg Cassini. www.rickgerrityphotography.com

(Sponsored by Panasonic)

Loretta Paul-Goldin, MNEC (CT) is an active member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), the Milford Camera Club and the Connecticut Association of Photographers (CAP), where she has co-chaired the Connecticut Invitational and actively been involved in several photographic competitions. She has served both of these groups in various different roles including a term as President of CAP and is currently the Treasurer for both organizations. A volunteer worker at the NECCC conference for many years, she assists with the pre-conference workshops and also helps out on the loaner equipment tables. A frequent judge for local camera club and inter-club competitions, she enjoys sharing her passion for photography with others including opportunities for learning more about photography. Loretta will be one of your co-hosts of the Camera Club Sparkle Saturday afternoon in room CC905-09 at 3:30 PM.

John Gregor (MN) has a Masters of Education with an emphasis in photographic literacy. He earned his BA from the University of Minnesota with a degree entitled “Documentary Expression of American Culture through Photography”. During his career John has worked on some interesting projects and photographed for some great publications, including among others; two years as the Official Track Photographer at Canterbury Downs Racetrack, a month long photographic project in Africa documenting the first attempted kayak decent of the Blue Nile from Lake Victoria to Lake Albert, an on-going photography/research project on the horse-mounted military musical bands remaining worldwide and photography documentation of over 75 Scientific and Natural Areas in Minnesota funded by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Nature Conservancy resulting in numerous publications. His work on the use of filters in landscape photography was published as an article in Outdoor Photographer Magazine. John’s photographic prints have been exhibited in numerous galleries, museums and collections throughout the world. He is a proud producer of all aspects of his art from concept to print to final frame. He lives near Two Harbors where he owns and operates ColdSnap Photography which provides commercial photography and photographic workshops. Paper for John’s prints used during his presentation was provided by **(Moab by Legion Paper)** www.coldsnap.com
(John’s Presentation is Sponsored by Datacolor)

Tim Grey (NY) is regarded as one of the top educators in digital photography and imaging, offering clear guidance on complex subjects through his writing and speaking. He has written eighteen books on digital imaging for photographers, has published over one hundred video training courses, and has had hundreds of articles published in magazines such as *Digital Photo Pro* and *Outdoor Photographer*, among others. For more than fifteen years Tim has been publishing the daily Ask Tim Grey eNewsletter, answering questions from photographers. He also publishes the monthly *Pixology* digital magazine and a wide variety of video-training courses through his “GreyLearning” video training library. Tim teaches through workshops, seminars, and appearances at major events around the country and around the world. His daily blog contains a wealth of information on a wide variety of subjects and he is known for his easy to follow but concise teaching on complex programs. Along with his camera college presentation “Sharing with Impact in Lightroom” which was **(Sponsored by Adobe)**, Tim also did a pre-conference workshop “Maximum Control in Photoshop”
www.timgrey.com

Doug Hansgate(MA) has been shooting professionally and with distinction for over 35 years. The owner of AMP Studios, a successful commercial portrait and fashion photography studio in New York, Doug often says that if an image does not exude passion and does not evoke a sense of delight, sorrow, sadness, happiness, or desire, the image lacks the ability to be a sustainable work of art. His creative approach to photography, coupled with his ability to see and capture light, permeates his impressive body of work. His numerous gallery showings highlight his perceptive and compelling work. His passion for his art has propelled Doug as a leader in the field of painting with light—since the human eye can perceive slight nuances of color and light that cameras cannot always capture. Doug has taught at professional photography seminars throughout the United States, and Canada and will be presenting a high fashion model shoot and workshop at this year’s Photographic Society of America’s Photo Conference in Pittsburg, PA in October, 2017. His passion for sharing his knowledge is tempered only by the hours of the day and how much can be accomplished in one lifetime.
www.hansgate.com

Steve Inglima, ANEC (NC) was hooked the first time a silver halide print magically came to life in the developer. This led him to 37 years in the designing, manufacturing, and marketing component of the photographic industry. He has professionally photographed commercial products, countless weddings and social events, lectured throughout the US, run trade shows for manufacturers, written tech bulletins, and taught at many Naval Air Stations, Air Force Bases, NASA, the Pentagon and on ten aircraft carriers. He traveled internationally working for, or as a consultant to; Nikon, GMI Photographic, Konica Digital Cameras, Megavision, Horseman (Large Format), Schneider Optics, and B+W Filters among others. In 2004, Steven was selected to be the administrator of the *Explorers of Light* program for Canon USA, coordinating the sponsored activities for 80+ professional photographers and printers. This included guiding their equipment choices, and assigning their lectures at trade shows, trade organizations, museums, galleries, camera clubs, etc. It remains one of his greatest honors to have formed what are now lifelong relationships with many of the *Explorers of Light*, who are among some of the most talented photographers and cinematographers in the US. He remains a passionate photographic artist who wishes to share his years of knowledge and the joy of imaging. www.smiphotos.com

Bob Krist (PA) is a freelance photographer who works regularly on assignment for magazines such as National Geographic Traveler, Smithsonian, and Islands. These assignments have taken him to all seven continents and have won awards in the Pictures of the Year, Communication Arts, and World Press Photo competitions. He has won the title of "Travel Photographer of the Year" from the Society of American Travel Writers three times. Bob is a *Sony Artisan of Imagery* and has become an avid filmmaker, shooting and producing short travel films for a variety of clients, including National Geographic. His movie about Iceland, "A Thousand Autumns," won awards at the Johns Hopkins Film Festival, the Reykjavik International Film Festival, and the Trento Italy International Film Festival. His book, *Spirit of Place: The Art of the Traveling Photographer* was hailed by American Photographer Magazine as "the best book about travel photography we've ever read." www.bobkrist.com (Sponsored by Sony)

Roman Kurywczak, ANEC (NJ) is a professional nature photographer for over 15 years who conducts lectures and workshops across the globe. His boutique tour company, "Roamin' with Roman Photo Tours", caters to small groups to provide the ultimate learning experience for participants. Whether he is in Tanzania or standing before a roaring waterfall in Iceland, Roman's energy and passion for nature photography are clearly evident. You can often find him out in Arches or Yellowstone National Park late at night photographing the nighttime landscapes and calling it fun! Closer to home, Roman will spend countless hours doing macro photography. While he enjoys photographing insects, his favorite subject is flowers. Roman is equally comfortable photographing landscapes, macro subjects, and wildlife whether he is at an exotic location with his tour group or close to home. His down to earth and easy to follow teaching style make him a highly sought after lecturer. He has won numerous awards locally, as well as nationally, and has presented countless lectures and workshops at photo clubs, conferences, and photo fests across the country. The author of several instructional eBooks on nature photography, Roman strives to share his passion for photography as others have shared with him. A proud member of the *Sigma Pro* team, you can find his galleries, blog, tour schedule, and more on his website. Along with his Camera College presentation on Photographing Water, Roman also taught a hands-on pre-conference workshop on macro. www.roaminwithroman.com (Sponsored by Sigma)

Hazel Meredith, APSA, MNEC (CT) is a member of the Greater Bridgeport Camera Club, the Connecticut Association of Photographers (CAP) and the Photographic Society of America (PSA) serving on the boards of several, including NECCC where she is a Vice President in charge of the Conference Printing and the Club Service Packets. In recognition of her photography, extensive lecturing and administrative work she has received top honors from NECCC as a Master Member (MNEC) and Associate (APSA) from PSA. In 2012, she received a PSA Service Award, one of its highest awards. Hazel has presented at many camera clubs throughout New England and at several regional and national photographic conferences throughout the USA, in addition to her own workshops held in New England and beyond. An active judge for local camera clubs she has also judged online for several club and council competitions. Hazel will be one of your co-hosts of the Camera Club Sparkle Saturday afternoon in room CC905-09 at 3:30 PM. www.meredithimages.com

Kent Messamore (NH) is a photographer, lecturer and computer specialist whose images have received awards in local, regional, and international competitions. His career encompasses 44 years in the computer industry with an extensive background in both Photoshop and Lightroom, starting in the early days of Photoshop in 1991, restoring old family photographs both commercially and as a hobby. He has taught computers, studio lighting, model posing, lighting with flash, and photo imaging extensively at workshops for camera clubs, studios and meet-up groups. Currently he is teaching a sixteen week Digital Photography class at Manchester Community College, NH. A certified Adobe Education Trainer, Kent doesn't just teach 'what the tools do' but brings workflow experience into the classroom.

www.kmessamore.com

Mike Milicia (MA) is a Massachusetts-based wildlife photographer specializing in birds who began his professional photography career in 2005 after working 27 years as a Software Engineer. In 2011, he started offering classes and field workshops and became affiliated with "Shoot the Light Instructional Photographic Workshops", which is owned and operated by *Canon Explorer of Light*, Charles Glatzer. Mike's work has been featured in numerous juried art fairs and exhibits throughout New England, including the prestigious Paradise City Arts Festival. He has been a finalist for Avian Image of the Year at birdphotographers.net and thirteen of his images have been selected for the North American Nature Photography Association's annual showcases with three of his images honored in the Audubon Magazine Photography Awards including a Top 3 placement in the Professional Category. Publication credits include National Geographic Magazine and Books, Audubon, Nature's Best, National Wildlife Federation, NANPA Currents, Palm Press, and Woodmansterne Publications. Mike's passion for photography is rivaled only by his passion for teaching photography. His engineering background makes him especially adept at communicating complex subjects in a well organized, step by step manner that proves to be very effective for photography students at all levels.

www.miliciaphoto.com

David Morgan (TX) is a wildlife photographer, judge, presenter and tour/workshop leader whose love of wildlife and photography began at an early age. Learning to stalk and sit quietly, he observed animals and used many different techniques to be a part of their natural habitat. His passion for wildlife was born out of a love and fascination for the natural world. David's passion for photography allows him to take images that allow him to interpret and present particular moments in the wild, in a way that evoke beauty, mood, and emotion with each moment captured. His skill with a camera allows him to create unique and artistic images with an emphasis on composition, lighting and color, while the very heart of each picture is his attempt to capture wildlife's beauty, fascination and graceful expressions. He has lectured for the Sierra Club, the North America Nature Photographers Association (NANPA), the Photographic Society of America's Conference and numerous Texas organizations and camera clubs. A member of the Fort Worth Camera Club (FWCC), where he competes, he was awarded Master Photographer of the Year (Digital) in 2016 and has won awards from Gulf States PSA, and Digital Photo Magazine. He will lead a workshop this summer for the Gulf States PSA convention and conducts workshops for NANPA and the FWCC as well as privately. He also leads numerous tours throughout the North Texas area. www.davesworld.zenfolio.com

Jacob Mosser, HonPSA, EPSA, HonNEC (MA) has been obsessed with photography for the past 35 years and has earned top honors from the Photographic Society of America (PSA), NECCC and the Greater Lynn Photographic Association (GLPA) for both his skills with the camera and his efforts on behalf of the photographic community. He has been the recipient of the PSA "Stuyvesant Peabody Award" for his significant contributions to pictorial photography and along with his wife Susan, has had the NECCC Conference dedicated to him. Jake is a member and past Chair of the Massachusetts Camera Naturalists (CamNats), past Chair of PSA's Nature Division, and PSA's Ethics Review Committee, past President and Honorary Life Vice-President of GLPA and past President and a current Vice President of NECCC. A multi Galaxy and Diamond Star competitor in International Exhibitions, he has judged and lectured throughout the USA and Canada. His work has been published in various magazines and calendars; the most recent being an article in the *PSA Journal* and the *Nature Photographer* magazine. Jake is most at home in the field with camera in hand, but he finds great satisfaction in teaching the techniques and vision he has learned through experience and the kindness of other sharing photographers. Jake is one of the three 2017 pre-conference portfolio reviewers.

Sarah Musumeci, MNEC (MA) is a member of the Merrimack Valley Camera Club and one of the 2017 pre-conference portfolio reviewers. She has been taking photos for most of her life, but in the last ten years her passion has been architectural, travel and portrait photography. She began taking interior photographs for small Bed and Breakfasts in New England, but soon advanced to major hotels in Boston and NYC. Having had thirteen magazine covers, she has also had much experience in the editorial world. She has given presentations at many New England camera clubs, the NECCC and Photographic Society of America (PSA) Conferences and has been a Portfolio Reviewer at the NECCC Conference for over six years. A highly talented and sought after judge, she has judged throughout New England on the local camera club level, over twenty PSA and NECCC interclub competitions and several International Exhibitions in both projected images and prints. She photographed and produced the NECCC conference videos for the past two years which have been posted on our website, Facebook and YouTube. www.smBuildings.com

Charles Needle (CA) is an award-winning, California-based fine art photographer, author, speaker and workshop leader with a unique eye for design and artistic interpretation whose popular “Art of Nature” creative macro workshops have attracted students nationwide. Charles has authored three cutting-edge instructional books: *Tiny Worlds: Creative Macro Photography Skills*, *Impressionistic Photography: A Field Guide to Using Your Camera as a Paintbrush* and *Creative Macro Photography: Professional Tips & Techniques*. An accomplished speaker, photography juror and teacher, his photographs have been selected for publication in *Nature’s Best*, *Outdoor Photographer* magazine, *Nature Photographer* magazine, *The Chicago Tribune* and are in private and public collections nationwide and abroad. Charles teaches more than a dozen location workshops per year, including international destinations such as France with private access to Monet’s Garden, Keukenhof Gardens (Holland), and The Butchart Gardens (Canada). He is a FujiFilm USA Talent Team member and North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) Showcase Award winner six years in a row. In 2011, Charles was selected as a finalist, among 15,000 entries worldwide, in the International Garden Photographer of the Year photography contest, sponsored by The Royal Botanic Gardens (England) and was a semi-finalist in the 2014 Nature’s Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards photo contest. Charles also presented a preconference workshop on “iPhone Magic” **and will be hosting a “hands on” session to go with his presentation on creative macro photography in Photo ops room CC 170 (lower level) on Saturday -8:30-11:30 AM.** www.charlesneedlephoto.com **(Photo Op Session Sponsored by Lensbaby)**

Precision Camera (Enfield CT) technicians are pleased to offer a free Camera Testing Clinic on your digital and film-based photographic equipment. Precision Camera’s Professional Services division strives to be the industry leader as the one-stop shop for the professional photographer. It achieves this by offering camera and lens repair service on the full spectrum of products used by the working professional, utilizing state-of-the-art test equipment and continuously evolving with the industry. They are the world’s largest service center providing full-service solutions on virtually all models of digital cameras and camcorders. The corporate campus, employing the largest team of highly trained professionals, is housed in eight facilities and focuses on providing a suite of best-in-class service solutions. Testing, diagnosis, and minor repairs, if possible, will be offered to Conference attendees. **Registration badges must be worn.** www.precisioncamera.com **Sponsored by Precision Camera**

Jack Reznicki (NY) is a commercial photographer and one of the original *Canon Explorers of Light*, based in New York City. His creative problem solving has helped promote products and services for many Fortune 500 companies. An internationally popular lecturer and teacher, he has also written four books, several columns, and many articles on photography. Being pro-active in the photo community, Jack is a past president of Professional Photographers Assoc. (PPA), a founding board member of American Photographic Artists (APA), and was on the board of American Society of Media Photographers, New York (ASMP). Along with many other awards, Jack was very proud to twice receive the IPC (International Photographic Council) Leadership medal for “Excellence in Studio Photography” at the United Nations. He was appointed a guest professor at Shandong University of Art and Design in Jinan, China and named a Mo-Tse Grand Master Photographer in China. He is also honored to be named an Honorary Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Professional Photography. Jack currently teaches a graduate level course at the School of Visual Arts in New York City on the business of photography. You can see some of his work at www.reznicki.com and follow his business blog at www.thecopyrightzone.com **(Sponsored by Canon)**

Chris Smith (IL) is the author of *The Photographer's Guide to Chicago* and host of the Out of Chicago Photography Podcast. He specializes in photographing the city of Chicago at night and is the founder of "Out of Chicago Photography". The Out of Chicago Photography Conference attracts some of the world's greatest photographers from around the globe to teach and learn. In October, 2017 they are taking the conference www.outofchicago.com on the road to Acadia National Park, Maine to bring the Out of Chicago experience to the world of landscape photographers. You can follow Chris on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and social media as csmithchicago and follow his Chicago photography adventures on the [Out of Chicago Youtube channel](#) www.csmithchicago.com

Essdras M Suarez (VA) is a Pulitzer prizewinner photographer now based out of Alexandria, VA, He is the chief photographer for *million eyez*, an internet- based platform that brings talented writers and photographers together. He was a photojournalist for twenty years and has had his images published in National Geographic, Time Magazine, New York Times and the Washington Post to name a few. A staff photographer at the Boston Globe until 2014, he received national and international accolades for his coverage of stories such as the Boston Bombing Marathon, Newtown Massacre, Tsunami aftermath, Iraq war coverage and others. His numerous awards include the Robert Kennedy International PJ Award, Headline Awards for International PJ and Feature, Association of Newspaper and Editors and the Boston Press Association and he has also won numerous awards for his portraiture and travel photography. A USDOS expert speaker in Photojournalism, specializing in Latin America, Essdras has worked in over 50 countries and currently teaches photo workshops locally, nationally and internationally. Graduating from the University of Florida in 1993 with Bachelors in Science of Journalism he was awarded an Alumnus of Distinction award in 2010. Along with his photographic career he is a devotee of the martial arts, fitness and yoga which led him to create visYoga™ an ever evolving physical-conditioning system which is "A workout for your body and a break for your mind." www.essdrasmsuarez.com (Sponsored by million eyez)

Paula Swift, M.Photog, Cr., CPP (MA) started her portrait photography business in 2004. Her work has appeared in the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, *Boston Globe*, *New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Esquire*, *Time*, *Newsweek* and internationally via the Associated Press wire service. Early in her career, Paula was a staff photographer at the Worcester Telegram & Gazette (MA) and three of her images were part of a Pulitzer nomination and finalist entry in feature photography for the photography staff's coverage of the deadly Worcester warehouse fire that took the lives of six firefighters. In her portrait work she has won two Kodak Gallery, a Hallmark Award, honored with a Photographic Degree of Excellence by the Professional Photographers Assoc. of Massachusetts (PPAM), and the 2014 Photographer of the Year bronze medalist at Professional Photographer's of America's (PPA) International Photographic Council (IPC). In 2015 Paula received her Master of Photography at the PPA's Imaging USA in Nashville, TN and her Photographic Craftsman degree in San Antonio, TX in January, 2017. She was featured by CBS Boston as Boston's Best family Photographer in 2015 and authored the book *"Storytelling Portrait Photography: How to Document the Lives of Children and Families"* in 2017. A native of Longmeadow, MA where she first learned to develop film in her parents' basement, she now lives in Framingham with her husband Chris, their three sons, a yellow lab named Swifty and a cat named Buzz, who are her daily inspirations. www.paulaswift.com (Sponsored by White House Custom Colour, MN)

Kelly Walkotton (MI) is a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) who combines her passions of photography and writing to bring the wonders of nature to others. She captures her images during her travels and then through research and writing, assembles presentations bringing the beauty of nature to audiences, teaching them about these unique creatures from around the world and how to photograph them. An avid scuba diver, her images, articles, and blogs have brought the undersea world to readers of *Fem Worldview.com* and the *PSA Journal*, where she has had three feature articles published. These articles include photos from diving the Caribbean, the Pacific, and her favorite destination, Indonesia, where she has spent fourteen weeks above and below the sea. She has also been published with various subject matters in many other print and web publications. Through her extensive use and familiarity with photo editing software, she has developed several lectures where enjoys teaching the Adobe Suite products of Photoshop, Elements, and Lightroom throughout the United States at various venues such as camera clubs, photo conferences and seminars including the Horizon Photography Summit in Maryland. Kelly lives in the greater Grand Rapids area and her images have been exhibited in many venues around West Michigan including ArtPrize and Festival Of The Arts. www.kellywalkottenphotography.com

Bob Watts, ANEC (MA) is in his 31st year with Nikon as a district account manager for half of New England from Boston to Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. He has photographed New England scenes from the coast to the mountains specializing in covered bridges. Having access to the full range of cameras and lenses from Nikon for the past thirty years has given Bob a wide range of experiences, stories, and images which he loves to share.

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2017-Pre-Conference Event Presenters

Digital Boot Camp: **Annette & Vinny Colucci (NC)**

Social Media for Photographers: **Joe Edelman (PA)**

Art of the Fine Print: **A. Cemal Ekin, MNEC (RI) (Sponsored by Red River Paper)**

Maximum Control in Photoshop: **Tim Grey (NY)**

Tack Sharp Macro Images: **Roman Kurywczak, ANEC (NJ) (Sponsored by Sigma)**

iPhone Magic: **Charles Needle (CA)**

Understanding Color & Its Impact on Mind & Emotion: **Bryan Petersen**

Portfolio Review Workshop: **William Barnett, APSA, GMPSA, AFIAP, MNEC**
Jacob Mosser, HonPSA, EPSA, HonNEC
Sarah Musumeci, MNEC

Biographical information for these presenters may be found, arranged alphabetically, in the speaker line-up above.