

2015 Annual Conference Print Competition
Reported by Arthur S. Vaughan, MNEC, Chairman, NECCC Print Competition

The annual B&W and Color print competitions were held at the 70th NECCC Conference in Amherst on Saturday, July 18, 2015. A total of 109 Color and 85 Black & White prints were entered. The number of prints submitted was up a bit from last year's conference totals of 92 Color and 77 B&W. The judging and medal winner selection process took nearly three hours to complete.

Judges for this competition were Bob Ring, Donald Toothaker, and Janice Wendt. Bob Ring and Donald Toothaker are co-owners and founders of The New England Photo Workshops, who are committed to exploring, photographing, and sharing the beauty of New England with photographers of every level. They both serve as judges and lecturers around New England, and are members of Nikon Professional Services. Janice Wendt has over 30 years experience in nature, commercial, wedding, and portrait photography. She is a well known and much sought after teacher having extensive knowledge of creative techniques using Nik Collection, Topaz, Perfectly Clear, Alien Skin, as well as other Photoshop and Lightroom plug-ins.

The judging process to determine which prints became part of the "final fifteen" for medal consideration took nearly an hour for each division. An additional hour was spent in selecting the Honor Award and medal winning prints in both categories, with the competition wrapping up about 3:45 PM. As with every conference print competition, there was a great deal of "lively discussion" between the judges in selecting the prints to receive the various medals, and all thoroughly enjoyed the entire afternoon. Their enthusiasm, effort, and commitment to serve as members of our 70th conference print judging panel is greatly appreciated. The work performed by all the members of the 2015 conference print competition committee is also greatly appreciated. Sharing print room and competition duties this year were Richard Cox, Glenn and Jane Guaraldi, MNEC's, Susan Hall, Gary and Judi Hoyt, John Lowe, MNEC, Dave Powell, and Valerie Whittier. Their commitment to share the work in the print room made light work of all the tasks involved in running the conference print competition.

As always, special thanks must go to all the members of the equipment committee who did a great job of getting the Cape Cod Room rigged up for our second year at this great location. Very much appreciated are all the folks who took the time to visit the print room and browse through the prints on display, both before and after the competition.

Finally, thanks go to all the folks who made the effort to submit their prints. The entire print operation is totally dependent upon the enthusiastic participation of the conference attendees. Knowing that each year we can count on an army of print makers to provide enough prints to fill our display racks, makes all the work done over the conference weekend a very worthwhile experience for all involved.

Listed below are the award winners from the Conference Print Competition.

Black & White:

Best of Show (NECCC Conference Competition Medal Winner)...

"Drawn together by the Light", by Suz Karchmer, Cape Cod Viewfinders

Special Categories (B&W Only)

Willem Pannebaker Award (Best Still Life)...

"Newport Rose", by Merrill Raikes, Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists

John Vondell Memorial Award (Best Landscape)...

"7470 Heading for Home", by Peter Miller, Greater Lynn Photographic Assoc.

William J. Barrett Memorial Award (Best Nature)...

"Southern Belle", by Sandra Kirker, Two Rivers Photography Club

Douglas H. Wanser Memorial Award (Best Portrait)...

"Drawn together by the Light", by Suz Karchmer, Cape Cod Viewfinders

Claude C. Sibley Memorial Award (Best Seascape)...

"Bass Harbor Lighthouse", by Glenn Guaraldi, Merrimack Valley Camera Club

Honor Award Blue Ribbon Winners (Medal Round)

Black & White:

"Cooper at Work"	Ralph Lebel	Photographers Forum CC
"Drawn Together by the Light"	Suz Karchmer	Cape Cod Viewfinders
"The Dark Hedges in Infrared"	Roy Haddock	Merrimack Valley CC
"7470 Heading for Home"	Peter Miller	Greater Lynn Phot.Assoc.
"Snow Covered Trees"	Gregg Mazzotta	Greater Lynn Phot.Assoc.
"Southern Belle"	Sandra Kirker	Two Rivers Photography Club
"Here Kitty Kitty"	Marty Silverstein	Syosset Camera Club
"The Embrace"	Les Muldorf	Mid Hudson Camera Club
"Mom's Hands"	Tom Noonan	Upper Cape Camera Club
"Flycatcher"	Bill Gehan	Manchester Camera Club
"The Dark Hedges"	Deborah Sullivan	Merrimack Valley CC
"Hawk in Flight"	Gary Hoyt	Merrimack Valley CC
"Nude With Shadow"	Dennis Thornton	Westchester Photographic Soc.
"Amish Country"	Kent Messamore	Manchester Camera Club
"Bass Harbor Lighthouse"	Glenn Guaraldi	Merrimack Valley CC

Color:

Best of Show (NECCC Conference Competition Medal Winner)...
"Pines at Dusk", by Ron Wybranowski, Merrimack Valley Camera Club

Yankee Photographic Society Gold Medals
(Judges Choice, Color Only)

Judge: Bob Ring...
"The Artist", by Erik Landegren, Flagpole Photographers

Judge: Donald Toothaker...
"Rowes Wharf, Boston Skyline", by Richard Cox, Dallas Camera Club

Judge: Janice Wendt...
"The Round Tower", by Drue Sokol, Schenectady Photo Society

Connecticut Association of Photographers Medals
(Selected Categories, color only)

Best Color Creative...
"Pines at Dusk", by Ron Wybranowski, Merrimack Valley Camera Club

Best Color Landscape...
"Reflection at Sandy Stream", by Gary Hoyt, Merrimack Valley Camera Club

Best Color Seascape...
"Black Sands, Iceland" by Loure Shaw, Candlewood Camera Club

Honor Award Blue Ribbon Winners (Medal Round)

Color:

"Pines at Dusk"	Ron Wybranowski	Merrimack Valley CC
"Church in Vik"	Judi Hoyt	Merrimack Valley CC
"Rowes Wharf, Boston Skyline"	Richard Cox	Dallas Camera Club
"The Round Tower"	Drue Sokol	Schenectady Phot. Society
"Puffin #2"	Rich Reynolds	Stony Brook Camera Club
"Buttonwood Farm"	Tom Murray	Manchester Camera Club
"Another Tequila Sunrise"	Roy Haddock	Merrimack Valley CC
"Balconies in Old Opera House"	Bert Schmitz	Housatonic Camera Club
"Reflection at Sandy Stream"	Gary Hoyt	Merrimack Valley CC
"Leather Head"	Edward Kist	Raritan Photographic Soc.
"Behind the Blue Poppy"	Dee Langevin	Delaware Phot. Society
"Wooooow"	Darrell Harrington	Flagpole Photographers
"Venice Canal"	Tom Noonan	Upper Cape Camera Club
"Early Morning Near Vik"	Theodore Thelin	Photo Adventures CC
"Peaceful"	Cindy Gosselin	Charter Oak Phot. Society