THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

*a publication of the GCA Photography Committee*

VOL. 42 ▪ DECEMBER 2017

# FOCUS

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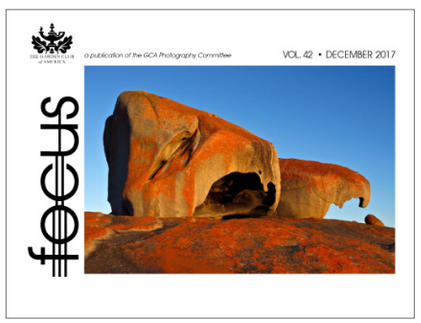


ON THE COVER

Photo by: Carol Large
North Country GC of Long Island / Zone III

## SUBMISSIONS

***focus*** is a quarterly online publication by the Photography Committee of The Garden Club of America (GCA) posted on the GCA website on the first day of September, December, March and June of each year. It showcases photographs that have won a First Place and/or GCA Special Award(s) at a GCA or sanctioned Non-GCA flower show and contains photography articles/information targeted to GCA photographers of all ability and interest levels.

To submit for publication consideration, use the "Submission Form for Articles and/or Image Content," accessible via this link:

https://form.jotform.us/71733644684161

and also found on the Photography Committee page of the GCA website in the section titled "FOCUS, ONLINE MAGAZINE." Follow online instructions.

To support the best intentions of photographers, only age-appropriate and otherwise appropriate images of child(ren) should be submitted to, passed, and exhibited in Photography Divisions of GCA/GCA Major flower shows and published in the online magazine, ***focus***.

In the event an image comes to the GCA's attention that the GCA determines does not meet this "appropriate" standard, the image shall no longer be shown or displayed. Any such determination would occur only after consultation between the Photography Committee Chairman, GCA president, and possibly the Executive Board.

Submission to ***focus*** grants to GCA the right to use the content, in any way, in connection with GCA's mission or charitable purposes. ***focus*** contents are neither the opinion nor a representation of GCA; GCA does not endorse any product or service.

| | | |
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The object of ***focus*** magazine of The Garden Club of America is to enhance the knowledge and enjoyment at all levels of involvement in the art of photography and to appreciate its unique blend of technical skill, knowledge of composition and creativity. Articles written express the opinion of the writers and are for the purpose of clarity and education about the photographic process, exhibiting and judging. The Garden Club of America and ***focus*** magazine do not endorse any product or service. All entries in Flower Shows are limited to members of GCA. By submitting your work to ***focus***, you grant permission to publish your work on the GCA website accessible to the public, and not limited to the Members Area.

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Photo by Patti Spaght

*A message from the Photography Chairman and the Editor*

December 2017

The December issue of ***focus*** again brings you the best work of GCA photographers from Zone I to Zone XII.  In this issue, we also share images from the marvelous Photography Study Group trip to Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, outside Lexington, Kentucky.

To reach more readers and increase awareness of the rich resources of GCA's photography program, ***focus*** has branched out. In a new feature, each month we introduce a GCA photographer in a column called *Focus On Our Photographers*, posted under "Photography Resources" on the Photography Committee landing page. Each month the work and creative philosophy of a new GCA photographer will be highlighted. Starting in September, the first series features our 12 Zone Photography Representatives with a selection of their images.

Also on the Photography Committee landing page, we will now publish reports with longer, educational content such as articles on technique and composition. Without having to search through individual ***focus*** issues, you will find materials readily available for "perennial" reference.

In other news from Photography:  We are happy to announce the approval of Photography 101 workshops. These workshops, to be conducted in each Zone, will be geared for beginner to advanced beginner photographers and will commence over the coming year. For more information, contact your Zone Photography Representative.

As ever, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Email  focus@GCAmerica.org to give us your Vantage Point.

Leslie Purple, GCA Photography Chair
R. Ellen Avellino, ***focus*** Managing Editor

# *THROUGH THE KEYHOLE MAGNIFICO!!!*

Founders Garden Club of Dallas / Zone IX
April 19 - 20, 2017

**Photographer**
Wylly Goodson
Founders Garden Club of Dallas / Zone IX

**Show Sponsor**
Founders Garden Club of Dallas / Zone IX

**Show Location**
Meadows Museum, Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX

**Awards**
First Place and GCA Photography Creativity Award

**Class Title**
La Llave del Esqueleto – The Skeleton Key

**Class Description**
A macro or close-up image showcasing the skeletal structure of a leaf.

**Judges' Comments**
"Clarity in textures of the leaf enhances the rolling rhythm."

"Exceptional beauty found in an unusual place."

**Plant Names**
*Brassica oleracea* – Cauliflower

**Technique**
Photographed indoors with natural light, with the leaf on a black background.

**Equipment**
iPhone 6

# *INSPIRATIONS 2017*
# *OPUS FOR SPRING*

The Portland Garden Club / Zone XII
May 11 - 14, 2017

**Photographer**
Jean Jarvis
Piedmont Garden Club / Zone XII

**Show Sponsor**
The Portland Garden Club / Zone XII

**Show Location**
World Forestry Center
Portland, OR

**Awards**
First Place and Best in Show

**Class Title**
Sonata

**Class Description**
Still Life

**Judges' Comments**
"Outstanding Composition."

"Technical and artistic success rivals that of the Dutch Masters."

**Photograph Location**
Piedmont, CA

**Plant Name**
*Anemone* – Anemone
*Narcissus* – Daffodil
*Pelargonium* – Geranium
*Tulipa* – Tulip

**Photographer**
Jolie Roze
The Seattle Garden Club / Zone XII

**Show Sponsor**
Litchfield Garden Club / Zone II

**Show Location**
Litchfield Community Center
Litchfield, CT

**Awards**
First Place and Best in Show

**Class Title**
Judicious Use versus Protected Wilderness

**Class Description**
An image showing the impact of visitors or private enterprise in a National Park. Depiction of people, if any, must be a subordinate element in the composition.

**Judges' Comments**
"The movement of water and people juxtaposed against towering rock formation creates an extraordinary image."

"Magical!"

**Photograph Location**
Virgin River, Zion National Park, UT

**Equipment**
Fujifilm XT-1
10-24 mm lens, 17.4mm
ISO 200
f11, 1.9 sec

# *OUR NATIONAL PARKS, America's Best Idea*

Litchfield Garden Club / Zone II
June 9 - 10, 2017

**Photographer**
Anne Tillinghast
Little Compton Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Sponsor**
Litchfield Garden Club / Zone II

**Show Location**
Litchfield Community Center
Litchfield, CT

**Awards**
First Place and GCA Photography Creativity Award

**Class Title**
Weir Farm National Historic Site

**Class Description**
An image of National Park scenery created using manipulative techniques to emulate American Impressionism of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Judges' Comments**
"Strong vertical lines create a captivating composition."

"Simple elegance creatively executed."

**Photograph Location**
Acadia National Park, ME

**Equipment**
Canon Powershot SX 50
ISO 400
f5.6, 1/400 sec

# *BY THE SEA*

Piscataqua Garden Club / Zone I
June 15 - 16, 2017

**Photographer**
Carol Large
North Country GC of Long Island
Zone III

**Show Sponsor**
Piscataqua Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Location**
Old York Historical Society
York, ME

**Award**
GCA Photography Creativity Award

**Class Title**
Keep a Weather Eye Open

**Class Description**
Weather in progress or something naturally created by weather.

**Judges' Comments**
"Dramatic lighting makes a striking silhouette."

**Photograph Location**
Kangaroo Island, Australia

**Plant Name**
*Caloplaca cinnabarina* – Orange Lichen

# *BY THE SEA*

Piscataqua Garden Club / Zone I
June 15 - 16, 2017

**Photographer**
Chris Wood
Noanett Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Sponsor**
Piscataqua Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Location**
Old York Historical Society
York, ME

**Awards**
First Place and Best in Show

**Class Title**
Tide Pool

**Class Description**
A found treasure in or near a tide pool.

**Judges' Comments**
"Color, texture and leading lines come together to create a shining jewel."

**Photograph Location**
Port Clyde, ME

**Equipment**
Canon EOS 7D
100mm Macro
f11, 1/10 sec

# *IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME*

Little GC of Columbus / Zone X
June 15 - 17, 2017

**Photographer**
Deborah Laverell
The Garden Workers / Zone V

**Show Sponsor**
Little GC of Columbus / Zone X

**Show Location**
The Robbins Hunter Museum
Granville, OH

**Awards**
First Place and Best in Show

**Class Title**
Greek Architecture

**Class Description**
Monochrome

**Judges' Comments**
"Perfectly captures the essence of the show."

**Photograph Location**
Athens, Greece

**Equipment**
Canon 60D

# *I DWELL IN POSSIBILITY*

Millbrook Garden Club / Zone III
June 16 - 17, 2017

**Photographer**
Suzette de Turenne
Seattle Garden Club / Zone XII

**Show Sponsor**
Millbrook Garden Club / Zone III

**Show Location**
Millbrook School
Millbrook, NY

**Awards**
First Place and
GCA Photography Creativity Award

**Class Title**
I have long been a Lunatic on Bulbs...

**Class Description**
A photograph of bulbs naturalizing a landscape.

**Judges' Comments**
"Rhythmic dance of scale and light achieved through a clever creative perspective."

"Phenomenal capture of spring light."

**Photograph Location**
Skagit Valley, WA

**Equipment**
Nikon D7100, with a fish-eye lens
ISO800
f8, 1/4000 sec

# *I DWELL IN POSSIBILITY*

Millbrook GC / Zone III
June 16 - 17, 2017

**Photographer**
Anne Tillinghast
Little Compton Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Sponsor**
Millbrook Garden Club / Zone III

**Show Location**
Millbrook School
Millbrook, NY

**Awards**
First Place and Best in Show

**Class Title**
A wider sunrise in the dawn;
A deeper twilight on the lawn...

**Class Description**
A black and white portrait of a plant or flower.

**Judges' Comments**
"The photographic vantage point has created a forceful and dynamic image."

"Portraiture captured with thrilling skill."

**Photograph Location**
Little Compton, RI

**Equipment**
Canon EOS T5i
f13, 1/25 sec

# *CHILDREN AT PLAY - SHOW OF SUMMER*

June 23 - 25, 2017

**Photographer**
Lorelei Gibson
The Westport Garden Club / Zone XI

**Show Sponsors**
GC of Barrington, GC of Evanston, Garden Guild of Winnetka, Kenilworth GC, Lake Forest GC, Winnetka GC

**Show Location**
Chicago Botanic Garden
Glencoe, IL

**Awards**
First Place and
GCA Certificate of Excellence in Photography

**Class Title**
'Round and 'Round We Go

**Class Description**
A color image capturing motion.

**Judges' Comments**
"Subtle interpretation of motion. We were carried away!"

**Photograph Location**
Wagon Mound, NM

**Photographer**
Laura Simpson
Lake Geneva Garden Club / Zone XI

**Show Sponsors**
GC of Barrington, GC of Evanston, Garden Guild of Winnetka, Kenilworth GC, Lake Forest GC, Winnetka GC

**Show Location**
Chicago Botanic Garden
Glencoe, IL

**Awards**
First Place and
GCA Photography Creativity Award

**Class Title**
Ghost Stories

**Class Description**
An abstract image in black & white utilizing creative techniques.

**Judges' Comments**
"Brilliant, highly sophisticated and totally original photograph."

"Contemporary spin on a classic theme."

**Photograph Location**
Art Institute of Chicago
Chicago, IL

# *CHILDREN AT PLAY - SHOW OF SUMMER*

June 23 - 25, 2017

**Photographer**
Jennifer Sundman
Broadmoor Garden Club / Zone XII

**Show Sponsors**
GC of Barrington, GC of Evanston,
Garden Guild of Winnetka,
Kenilworth GC, Lake Forest GC, Winnetka GC

**Show Location**
Chicago Botanic Garden
Glencoe, IL

**Awards**
First Place and GCA Novice Award

**Class Title**
Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?

**Class Description**
A color image depicting a cultural landscape from a memorable travel destination.

**Judges' Comments**
"Exquisitely constructed with a cacophony of color and texture. We can see why Carmen visited here!"

**Photograph Location**
Hoi An, Vietnam

# CHILDREN AT PLAY - SHOW OF SUMMER

June 23 - 25, 2017

**Photographer**
Cheryl Anderson
Kenilworth Garden Club / Zone XI

**Show Sponsors**
GC of Barrington, GC of Evanston, Garden Guild of Winnetka, Kenilworth GC, Lake Forest GC, Winnetka GC

**Show Location**
Chicago Botanic Garden
Glencoe, IL

**Awards**
First Place and
Show of Summer Novice Award

**Class Title**
Chasing Butterflies

**Class Description**
A color image from your backyard or neighborhood.

**Judges' Comments**
"The unique perspective perfectly captures the child's imagination. Technically superb use of background and focus."

"Luminescent and evocative of a summer day!"

**Equipment**
iPhone 5

# *CHILDREN AT PLAY - SHOW OF SUMMER*

June 23 - 25, 2017

**Photographer**
Ann Waldman
Portland Garden Club / Zone XII

**Show Sponsors**
GC of Barrington, GC of Evanston, Garden Guild of Winnetka, Kenilworth GC, Lake Forest GC, Winnetka GC

**Show Location**
Chicago Botanic Garden
Glencoe, IL

**Awards**
First Place and Best in Show

**Class Title**
Fading Footprints

**Class Description**
A color image of a shoreline or seascape

**Judges' Comments**
"Textural and colorful beach scene contrasts perfectly with somewhat foreboding sky."

"Captures the essence of every element of the show."

**Photograph Location**
Miami, FL

# *MEET ME ON NANTUCKET*

Nantucket Garden Club / Zone I
July 20, 2017

**Photographer**
Susan Hilpert
Seattle Garden Club / Zone XII

**Show Sponsor**
Nantucket Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Location**
Siasconset Casino
Siasconset, MA

**Awards**
First Place and Best in Show

**Class Title**
Taking the Bluff Walk

**Class Description**
A close-up of all or part of a flower.

**Judges' Comments**
"Dramatically lit portrait of a sunflower in all its natural glory."

"Crowning glory in its simplicity."

**Plant Name**
*Helianthus annus*

**Technique**
Five photographs were taken changing the shutter speed for each. The five photos were combined using HDR Pro and then further refined in Photoshop.

# *MEET ME ON NANTUCKET*

Nantucket Garden Club / Zone I
July 20, 2017

**Photographer**
Claire Mellinger
Albemarle Garden Club / Zone VII

**Show Sponsor**
Nantucket Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Location**
Siasconset Casino
Siasconset, MA

**Awards**
First Place

**Class Title**
Shopping at the Farm Stand

**Class Description**
A still life featuring vegetables and/or fruit (color photo).

**Judges' Comments**
"Beautifully composed still life with highlights and lighting."

"Photography is about light. This image sparkles with light."

**Technique**
This was shot very late at night indoors with only spotlights and black background.

# *WHERE STONE WALLS MEET THE SEA*

Little Compton GC / Zone I
September 19 - 20, 2017

**Photographer**
Sally Swart
Little Compton GC / Zone I

**Show Sponsor**
Little Compton Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Location**
Little Compton Community Center
Little Compton, RI

**Award**
First Place

**Class Title**
Romancing the Stone

**Class Description**
Color or Monochrome
A photograph of a stone wall.

**Judges' Comments**
"Curious stone wall leads eye into silhouette of the stone against the sky."

**Photograph Location**
Block Island, RI

**Equipment**
Canon Mark 4
24mm lens
ISO 160
f11, 1/250 sec

# *WHERE STONE WALLS MEET THE SEA*

Little Compton GC / Zone I
September 19 - 20, 2017

**Photographer**
Sally Swart
Little Compton GC / Zone I

**Show Sponsor**
Little Compton Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Location**
Little Compton Community Center
Little Compton, RI

**Awards**
Second Place and
GCA Novice Award

**Class Title**
Autumn Portraits

**Class Description**
A macro or close-up photograph of an autumn flower or flowers.

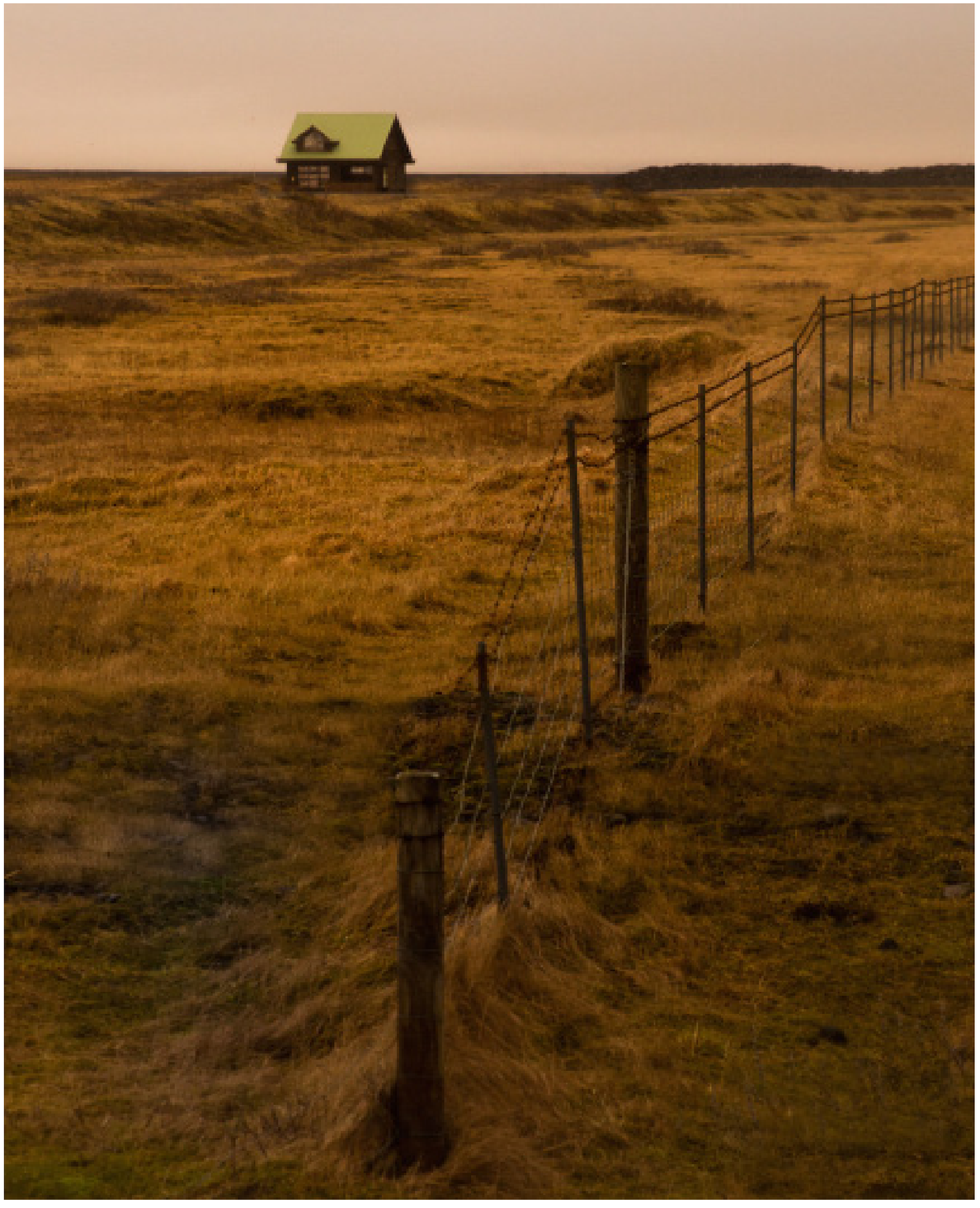
**Judges' Comments**
"Creatively executed, because it causes us to wonder where the light is coming from."

"A Perfect Portrait!"

**Equipment**
Canon Mark 4
Macro 100 f2.8 lens
ISO 1600
f5.6, 1/400 sec

# *WHERE STONE WALLS MEET THE SEA*

Little Compton GC / Zone I
September 19 - 20, 2017



**Photographer**
Helen Glaenzer
North Shore GC of Massachusetts / Zone I

**Show Sponsor**
Little Compton Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Location**
Little Compton Community Center
Little Compton, RI

**Awards**
First Place and Best in Show

**Class Title**
Mostly Meadows

**Class Description**
A photograph of a seasonal landscape.

**Judges' Comments**
"Beautifully evocative photo."

**Photograph Location**
Iceland

**Equipment**
Canon 6D
Lens Tamron 29-300
Focal length 129m
ISO 800
f9, 1/100 sec

**Photographer**
Danna Dearborn
Piscataqua Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Sponsor**
Little Compton Garden Club / Zone I

**Show Location**
Little Compton Community Center
Little Compton, RI

**Awards**
First Place and GCA Photography Creativity Award

**Class Title**
Autumn Portraits

**Class Description**
A macro or close-up photograph of an autumn flower or flowers.

**Judges' Comments**
"Extraordinary skill creates a dramatic moment."

**Photograph Location**
Leland, MI

# 63124 - FLORAL, FLORA & FLASH

Ladue Garden Club / Zone XI
September 20 - 22, 2017

**Photographer**
Ellen Gould
Fairfield Garden Club / Zone II

**Show Sponsor**
Ladue Garden Club / Zone XI

**Show Location**
Racquet Club Ladue
St. Louis, MO

**Awards**
Second Place and
GCA Photography Creativity Award

**Class Title**
Patterns

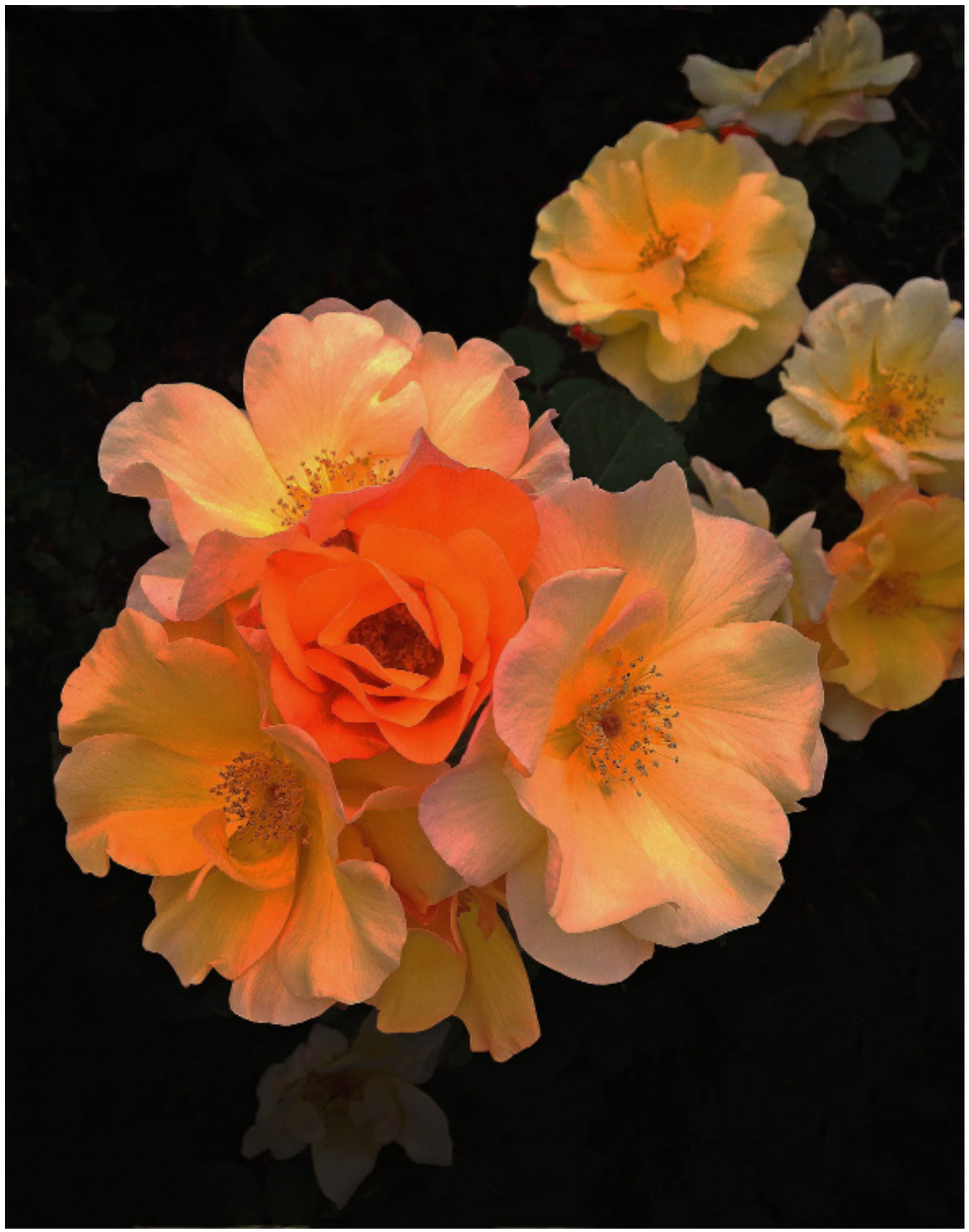
**Class Description**
Monochrome

**Judges' Comments**
"The subject matter leads us to be creative."

**Photograph Location**
Ridgefield, CT

**Technique**
Photo converted to monochrome and color corrected in Light Room.

**Equipment**
iPhone 6S Plus



**Photographer**
Suzette de Turenne
Seattle Garden Club / Zone XII

**Show Sponsor**
Garden Club of Madison / Zone IV

**Show Location**
Hartley Dodge Memorial Building
Madison, NJ

**Awards**
First Place and Best in Show

**Class Title**
The Subject is Roses

**Class Description**
A color photograph depicting roses.

**Judges' Comments**
"An outstanding composition of a beautifully lit group of roses!"

"Outstanding photograph created by exceptional skills."

**Photograph Location**
Seattle, WA

**Plant Name**
*Rosa* 'Sunglow'

**Equipment**
iPhone
ISO 50
f2.4

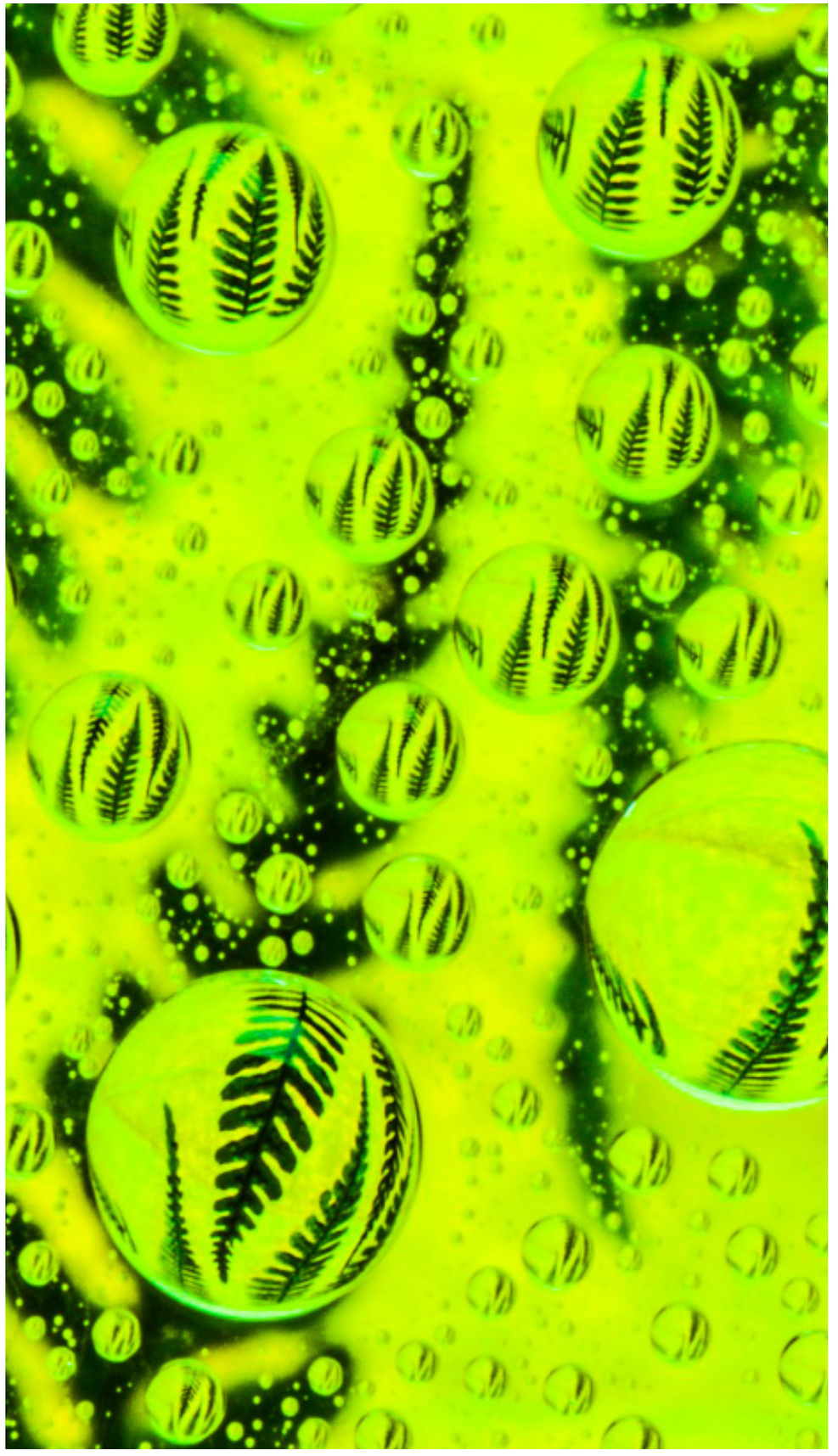
# Water Droplet Photography

Dana Parker
Zone VII Photography Representative

I am always on the lookout for new tricks to try with photography. Recently, I saw an intriguing photo by Zone VIII photographer and former editor of FOCUS, Jean Matthews. The beautiful image was of water droplets on ferns. I asked her how she accomplished the image. Her secret was using Rainex™ a product sold at auto supply stores, which causes water droplets to coalesce into larger droplets.

To create my image, I placed a colorful background, leaves and a sheet of glass suspended over the plants with the water droplets on the glass. This became a fun challenge to produce a variety of interesting images. For example, refraction in the water drops causes an inversion of the image as well as an interesting repetition.

A sample setup: The camera, on a tripod, is suspended over a pane of glass with drops scattered on it and with leaves placed underneath. The distance can be adjusted by changing the supports of the pane of glass in this case, they were plastic cups. The leaves, in this case, were placed on a glass table so I could up light it with a flashlight, which is just one option to try. If up-lighting is used, I have found that strong foliage forms such as ferns work the best because of their identifiable silhouette.



My first attempt to replicate Jean Matthews fern photo!

In this photograph, a wineglass is perched on a support with water and trees and land in the background. The inversion is striking and could benefit from a glorious sunset. The convexity of the wineglass (really a large droplet itself) inverts the image to produce intriguing photographs.

It is not necessary to use a still life-type set-up. For example, after it rains, water droplets will abound, and can also be found outdoors on humid summer mornings. In these cases, no artificial staging is required, but one essential requirement would be a good macro lens. This lens will magnify the image so one can see something through the drop. If you can capture a flower in that droplet, it will be simply beautiful. Another possibility would be to capture sunlight glistening off the drops to add to the excitement in an image.

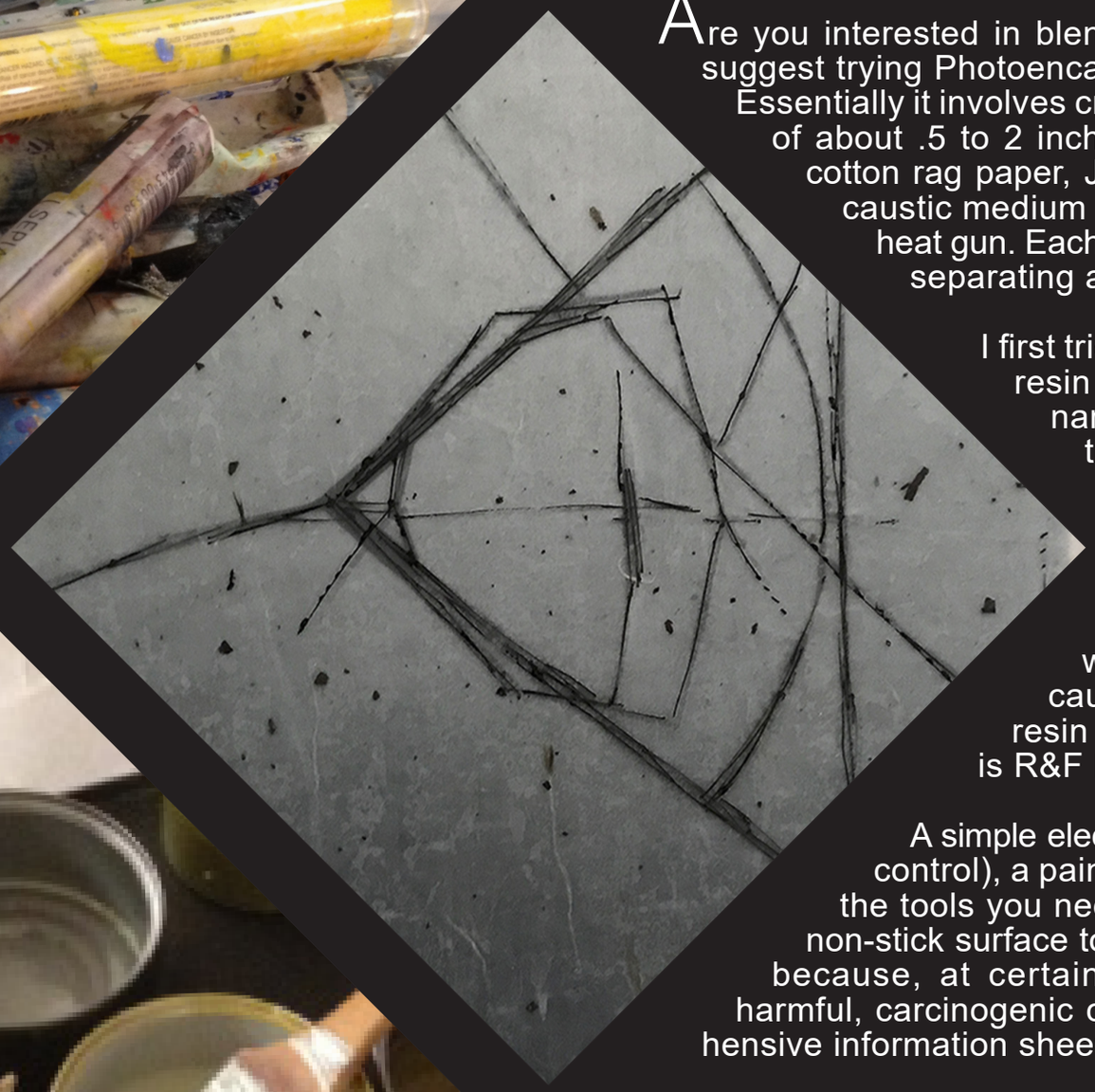
In this close-up of a honeysuckle growing adjacent to a fence captured on a very humid day – it may have even rained just prior to the shot. I was aiming to capture the flower of the honeysuckle, but instead I got a repeat of the fence posts reflected in the droplets.

After I first got my new DSLR camera, this was an early image. The papyrus plant was outside a window. I had only to open the window and remove the screen!

A classic water droplet capture is this Lady's Mantle captured on a dewy morning dressed up with a necklace of water.

A good reference book on water droplet photography is Photographing Water Drops  by Harold Davis. He writes that armed with a spray bottle, you will find that "water drops dress up the mundane. They adorn flowers, blades of grass, and spider webs with fantastic jewelry, making simple everyday things beautiful and beyond compare."

You never know what is right out your back door! So, have fun with it and get creative.  Set up your own shots; with a bit of effort you can use water droplets to enhance an ordinary image, making it an extraordinary one.



## Photography and Encaustic...

# *PHOTOGRAPHS MEET HOT WAX*

Ryn Clarke
Shaker Lakes GC / Zone X

Are you interested in blending an unusual art form with your photography? I suggest trying Photoencaustic art forms. What is a photoencaustic art piece? Essentially it involves creating a "sandwich" with a wooden base with a depth of about .5 to 2 inches and a photographic image printed on absorbent cotton rag paper, Japanese paper or silk. Multiple layers of wax or encaustic medium are fused onto the image using a brief blast from the heat gun. Each layer must be fused by the heat to prevent layers from separating and cracking.

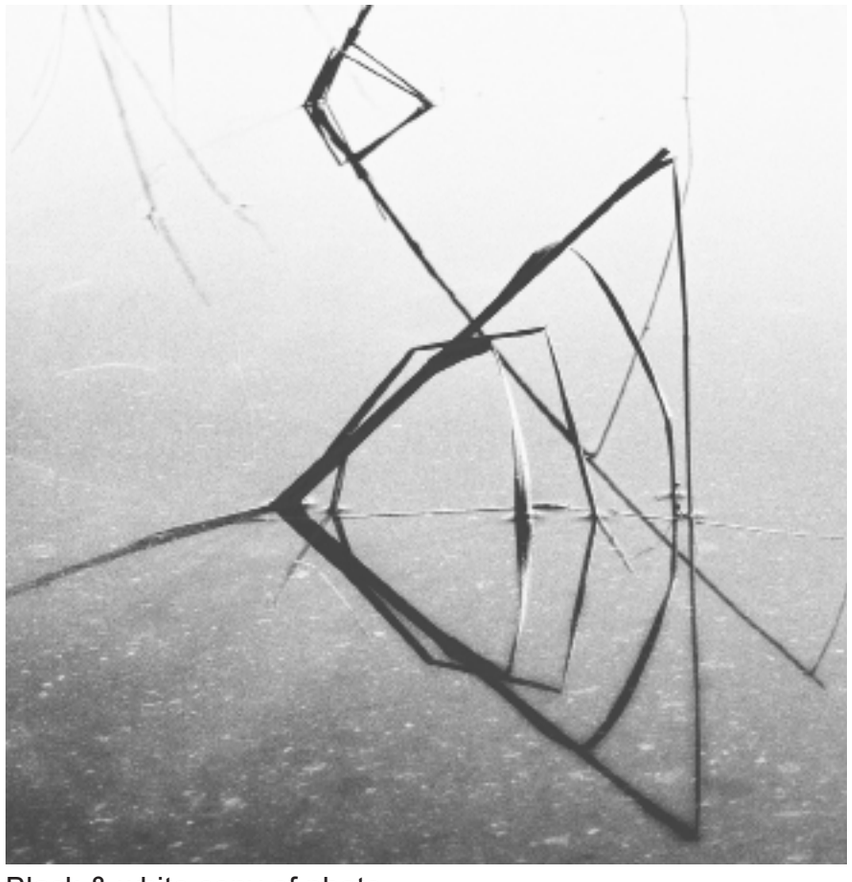
I first tried the encaustic technique -applying the melted wax/resin blend- on my images as a new way to add luminance and transparency to my photographic work. I had tried other techniques such as printing my images on vellum or silk, but none of these methods proved satisfying, until I tried encaustic – and bingo, it 'worked!

This wax can be pigmented with color, or remain white or creamy beige. The basic material used in encaustic work is a combination of beeswax and Damar resin (crystallized tree sap). A good source for the medium is R&F Paints (www.rfpaints.com).

A simple electric cooking skillet from Target (one with a temperature control), a paintbrush and a heat gun from your local paint store are the tools you need to get started. Also useful is a Silpat mat or other non-stick surface to serve as a work surface. Good ventilation is critical because, at certain temperatures, wax has the capacity to release harmful, carcinogenic compounds. The R&F Paints website has a comprehensive information sheet you can review before you attempt the process.

To help you visualize the process, included are photographs, including the hot plate set-up, an unmodified original color photograph (left). On the following page a monochrome detail taken from the original and the detail modified using the encaustic technique. A photographic image combined with encaustic adds a third dimension of translucency and texture. The luscious wax surface begs to be touched (and even smelled) and the expressive possibilities with color are endless. A world of creativity awaits you if you are yearning for a new approach to your photography.

Original color photo of reeds.



Black & white copy of photo.

Finished photo and winner of the GCA Creativity Award in Photography

PSG visit to the

# Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill

in Harrodsburg, Kentucky

From October 17th – 20th the Photography Study Group visited the beautiful Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. Studying under the expert tutelage of renowned photographer Denise Ippolito, group members were led on a photographic journey through the gentle hills of Kentucky horse country. We spent a morning on the well-known Bourbon Trail, (distilleries have great photo opportunities!) and time at famed Keeneland racetrack learning "panning" techniques. Fall foliage and the justly acclaimed horse farms that grace the countryside surrounded us. Photographing the architecture and landscape back in the Village more than filled the remaining time and we all left with thoughts of returning soon to continue exploring this lovely spot.

Photo by: Ann Franzen / Fairfield GC / Zone II

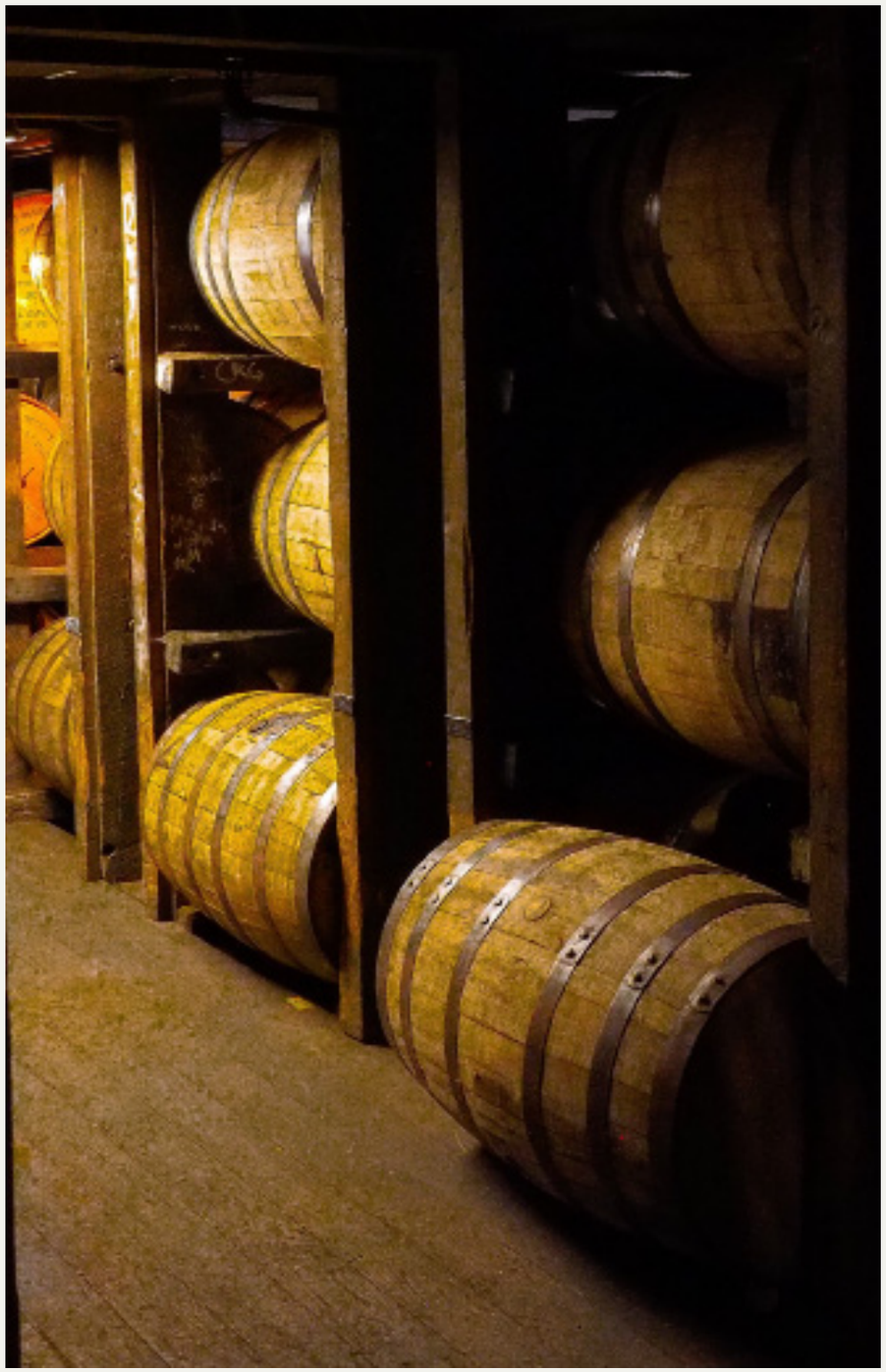
Ann Franzen
Fairfield GC / Zone II

Ann Franzen
Fairfield GC / Zone II

Crissy Cherry
Lake Forest Garden Club/ Zone XI

Crissy Cherry
Lake Forest Garden Club/ Zone XI

Crissy Cherry
Lake Forest Garden Club/ Zone XI



Leslie Purple
Wissahickon Garden Club / Zone V

Peg Codey
Garden Club of Madison / Zone IV

Peg Codey
Garden Club of Madison / Zone IV

Mary Truslow
Milton Garden Club / Zone I

Mary Truslow
Milton Garden Club / Zone I

Group Photo

by Denise Ippolito

PSG Instructor

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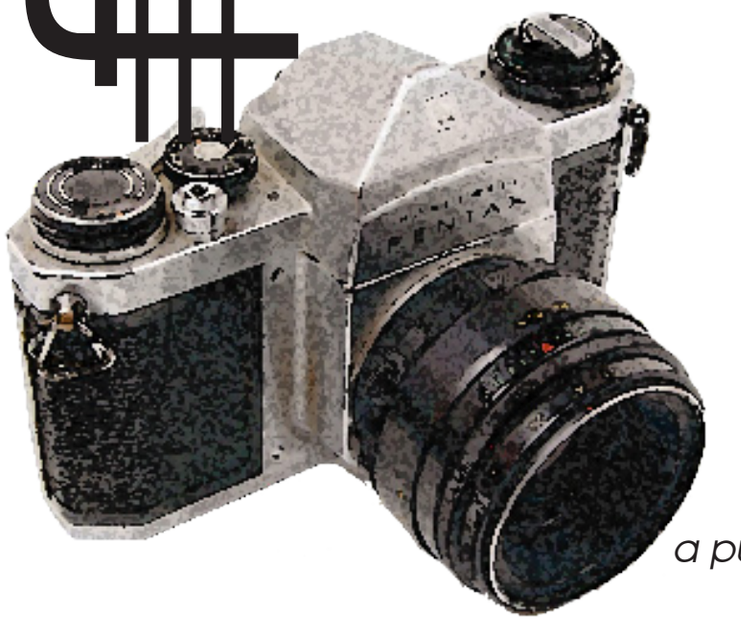

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