

Cayuga Nature Photographers *Newsletter*

August 2018 - Volume XXVI, No. 8

CNP at Kendal

Our photo exhibit at Kendal went up on August 31, and continues through the end of October. The display offers an excellent variety of subjects all presented in a consistent manner. There have been many appreciative comments for what is an excellent presentation of our members' creative work. A selection of the images follows on page two. Take a friend to see it, if you can. When you enter Kendal, make a left at the tee and continue to signage on right for visitors. The display is in the main hallway close to the entrance lobby.

In October, our meeting on October 4th returns to the regular time and location in the Whetzel Seminar Room. For our sharing time, you are asked to bring three images on a personal project you have been working on this summer (but not the theme for the Kendal show). It could be a particular camera technique, improving your skill with Lightroom, working with a new piece of software, a trip, or anything else. In addition, Carol can share her cemetery photos and Paul his bears and salmon.

As you read this, autumn is beginning with many interesting options for the photographer. It has been a good season for mushrooms and waterfalls. Fall colors are just beginning to show. Watch for emails announcing a CNP outing in early October.

Finally, I am offering a brief lesson in the value of travel insurance, particularly medical evacuation insurance, based on a situation we experienced recently. Please consider this.

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Thursday, October 4 at 7:30 PM

Cornell Plant Science Building,

Whetzel Seminar Room (Rm.404)

Highlights from Kendal

Muhammad Arif offered three black and white image in the style of intimate landscapes. Printed on white page, this image of trees in a snowy field melts into the surrounding white page. It is a good effect that is appreciated in the newsletter's white background.



Note how the trees are used in the masthead for this month's newsletter on page 1.

Anne Thompson displayed a memorable image of two sycamore trees in the Cornell Arboretum. She appropriately referred to it as "The Couple". It is just a very nice composition. The gentle autumn colors speak of a peaceful place. While the two tree trunks are centered, the tree limbs take the viewer's eyes on an exploration that never ends.



Nicely presented.

Carole LaBorie offered an image titled "Peekaboo" for obvious reasons. The direct eye contact with the viewer is essential to the success of this photo. Depth of focus is relatively shallow, so our attention does not stray too far from the frog's head and adjacent lily pad. The rest need not be exactly defined. Also note the narrow color range. It is nearly all blue or green. There are not color distractions.



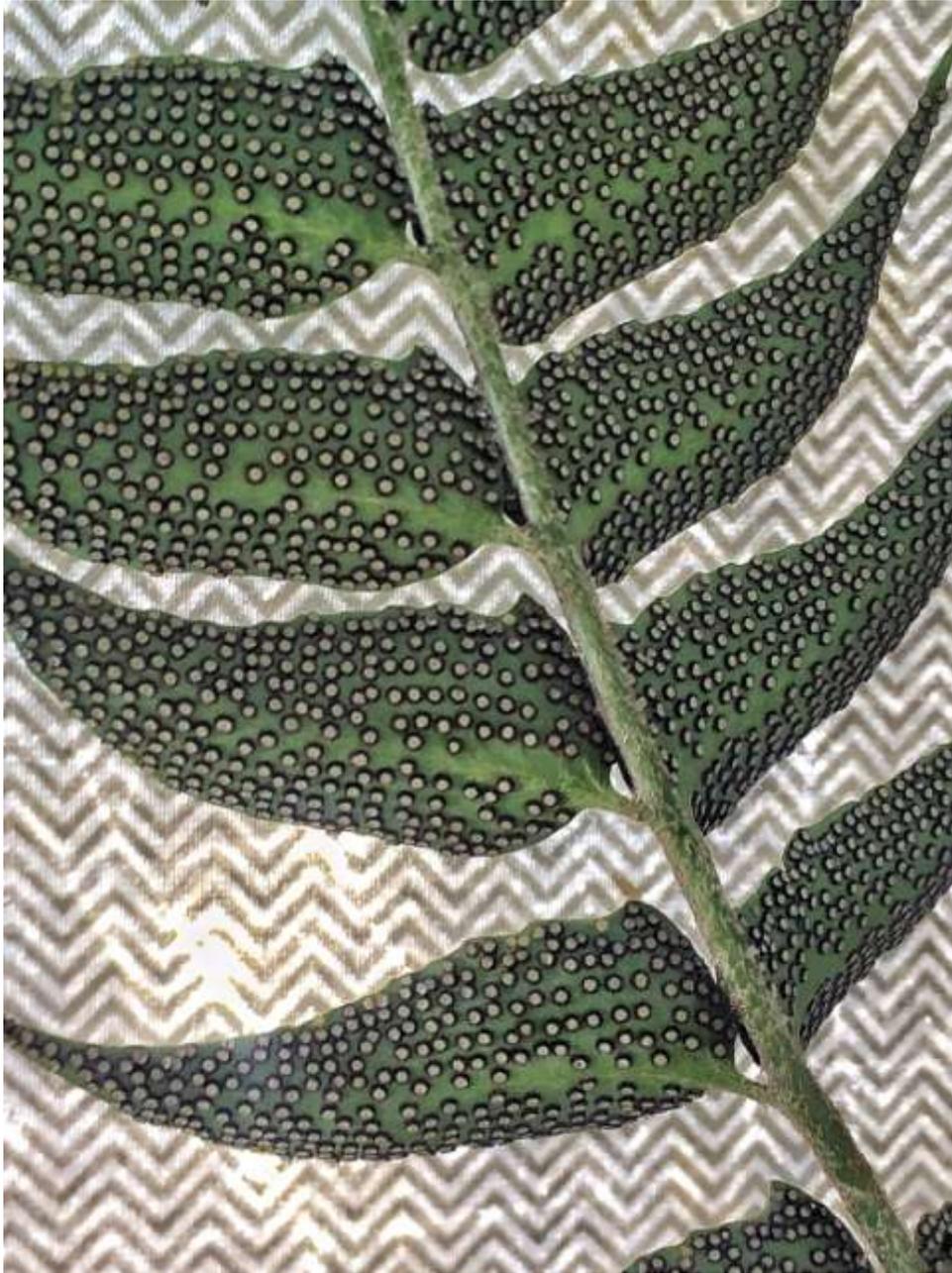
Watching this, it seems the frog is just seconds from disappearing into the depths. It's a likeable image.

Gretel Pelto walked down to the shore of Cayuga Lake on a foggy morning in autumn when the lake was calm and colors subdued. Putting some trees and a neighbor's dock in the foreground helped to suggest the viewer is standing with her on the steps to her dock. The layers of clouds are captured well with their many tonal values. The foreground avoids being too dark. Excellent composition and exposure.



In another season, on a less attractive morning, Gretel's photo recalls the magic of that morning.

Lisa Stankus always brings us a pleasing, and surprising vision. This image of the spores on a fern's compound leaf puzzles the viewer. We see this natural form with an unnatural background that intrigues us. What?



Here is the secret. The background is a cloth light reflector used to bounce light into shadow areas. Mark Malkin shared it with her. The fabric, somewhat worn with age, has a woven herringbone pattern. At first sight, did this not raise your curiosity?

Connie Stirling-Engman presented an image with a lot of good features. First, we all love monarch butterflies. It is perfectly square to the camera so the entire butterfly is share, as is the center of the zinnia. The rest of the garden is presented in colors but absent detail that would compete with her subject. Colors are pleasing. The subject butterfly/flower combination is a split complementary of red-orange-green.



This leads me to consider adding Zinnias next summer in our butterfly garden.

Nancy Ridenour shared close up portraits of flowers including this one of a lotus from her water garden. Just as an earlier image was described as an intimate landscape, this is an intimate flower portrait. It captures a personality as the view goes beyond just looking to really seeing the subject in detail.



Photography revolutionized how people see the world by offering macro and telescopic, and on the other end, wide angle views. This image reveals a fresh way to see a water lotus. It does it perfectly.

Kathleen Rasmussen shared beautiful images from her garden. She joins Nancy in presenting flower portraiture, in this example a noble purple and yellow iris. Like a people portrait, the flower is engaging the viewer. There are only three colors. It is uncomplicated. Focus is sharp on the flower with the green background setting the place without distraction.



In the middle of winter, Kathy can view the photo and think toward the coming summer. It is very nicely presented.

Peter Thomas exhibited a black and white image of a winter scene. (The landscape image makes me think about publishing the newsletter in landscape format. editor) This photo would lose impact in color. It seems to be about patterns and movement. The width of the foreground brings the distant river's flow right to the viewer. If it were a video, we'd be listening to the gurgle of water around the ice, and we can imagine the sound if we try.



Afterword:

This is just a sampling of a much larger presentation at Kendal. It is good enough to see it a second time. Often a return viewing reveals further lessons, and in particular calls attention to those images that remained in your memory after a first viewing. Take someone with you and if the opportunity arises, speak with residents. What they say about particular photos can provide lessons about how to present the strongest image.

Thanks to all the members who made the commitment to share their images. Well done!

Travel Insurance- A Lesson Learned

In August, we boarded the 86 ft. Westward for a week exploring by water the many delights of Southeast Alaska. No roads, no towns, no ambulances, few cell signals existed on our itinerary. On day two, our party of six and a guide hiked 1.6 miles to a lake. Shortly after we headed back, Merilou slipped on a wet rock and tumbled into a gully. She was in great pain with a right ankle injury and sore ribs. The guide taped her ankle, and our return began with a mix of piggyback carries, hopping on her left leg or scooting down rock steps. Our boat captain got crutches from a neighbor boat for the last 1/4 mile. It was not easy to get her back on board, and the injuries seemed serious. Merilou and her husband were faced with no evacuation insurance. We could divert to a tiny town for a float plane to a Juneau hospital. After consulting with her physician on a cell phone, they stayed on the boat in spite of her pain. It appeared the unknown expense plus abandoning the trip were factors.

Pam and I were deeply concerned. They made it to the end of the trip and began their return flights home to Colorado with the help of wheelchair. It took three flights. What was the outcome? Broken tibia and fibula plus an ankle fracture, and a blood clot in the leg. Four hours of surgery. Medical evacuation insurance would have made for a better decision based on the injury without the concern about expense. **If an ambulance cannot drive to get you, medical evacuation insurance is a must.**

Please Note

Membership is \$20, due currently. You may pay at our next meeting, or, if preferred, you can mail it to Nancy Ridenour at 346 Warren

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