

2022 Annual Conference Print Competition

Arthur S. Vaughan, HonNEC, Chairman, NECCC Print Competition

The annual B&W and Color print competition was held at the 75th annual NECCC Conference in Amherst on Saturday, July 16, 2022. A total of 64 Color and 53 Black & White prints were entered. Leading up to this, the 75th (and final in-person Conference), there was a great deal of speculation concerning how much participation there would be in the Conference print competition. The dark cloud of Covid hung over the Conference and there were concerns that attendance and participation might be very light. Although the print numbers were down by about 20% in both the color and Monochrome divisions, there was plenty of material for the judges to "chew on". The judges for this competition were Ray Guillette (HonNEC), Sarah Musumeci (MNEC), and Dave Parsons (MNEC).

Ray Guillette, HonNEC is an Honorary Life Member of the Stony Brook Camera Club and the Photographic Society of Rhode Island. He is an Honorary Member and Past President of NECCC, and has performed showcase and teaching presentations at several NECCC Conferences and many other camera clubs throughout New England. A well-known judge, he has judged both digital and prints in camera clubs, interclub competitions, special theme competitions and International Exhibitions. The 72nd NECCC Conference was dedicated to him in 2017. His publications include an article with images in Popular Photography.

Sarah Musumeci, MNEC is a member of the Merrimack Valley Camera Club. 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. She has given presentations at many New England camera clubs, NECCC, Photographic Society of America (PSA) Conferences and has been a Portfolio Reviewer at the Conference for nine 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.

Dave Parsons, MNEC is a Honorary Life Vice President on the Board of Directors of the Greater Lynn Photographic Assoc. Past President and past print competition chairman for 12 years, he started to do darkroom work in 1963 as part of his high school yearbook staff. A talented B&W print maker he competes in Masters Class at Greater Lynn and judges prints at various venues. He taught photography in a number of North Shore Middle Schools for the Wang Centers "Arts can Teach Program" which integrated the arts into the Massachusetts school curriculum. He also studies and does oil painting in his spare time.

Judging and assigning scores to establish which entries made up the "final fifteen" group for medal consideration went relatively quickly, taking close to an hour each for both the B&W and Color divisions. An additional hour was spent in selecting the Honor Award and medal winners, with the competition wrapping up around 3:30 PM. This involved more than the usual amount of careful close examination and direct comparison. Weighing each print's "pros and cons" to determine the award winners was a somewhat lengthy process. After a great deal of very lively discussion the judges were all in agreement regarding those selected to receive top honors. Our judge's enthusiasm, effort, and willingness to make themselves available to participate in this 75th conference

print competition is greatly appreciated.

The work performed by all the members of the 2022 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, Larry Dunn...MNEC, Gary and Judi Hoyt...MNEC's, John Lowe...MNEC, and Valerie Whittier. Without their willingness to step up and share the work involved in running the conference print operations the council would have found it impossible to continue to provide the print competition and its associated exhibition as the popular activity that it is.

The members of the equipment committee did an outstanding job in preparing The Old Chapel for use as an exhibition hall and venue for the competition. Everything was set up and ready to go Thursday afternoon, print racks in place and extra tables provided for additional display space, making it possible for the print entry log-in process to proceed immediately upon opening at 8 o'clock Friday morning. This was our second year at this location, and their ability to prepare the print room early was greatly appreciated.

Special thanks go to all the folks who took the time to walk to the Old Chapel, visit the print room and view the prints on display, before, during, and after the competition. Following the Saturday night fine arts center program a huge crowd of attendees stopped by the print room to view the results of the competition. Changing the display layout for Saturday night viewing gave more room for visitors to view the winning prints without creating any traffic problems. The Chapel layout, with the vestibule used for print log-in and preparation, and having the back conference room reserved for computer work associated with running the conference print operation was ideal for putting on this event. The exhibition hall was more than large enough to hold all the print racks, with plenty of room to spare, plus... the hall had true "museum quality" overhead lighting with no "dead spots".

Finally... as usual, thanks must go to all the attendees who took the time to prepare prints for the competition. Although all participants enter their work with the hope of winning an award, the exhibition itself is of great importance. The creators of those entries not making it into the final fifteen in Color and Monochrome made good use of the time spent in printing and preparing their work for the competition. Regardless of a print's ultimate award status, all entries were "winners" in the end, being part of a great body of work on display for all visitors to enjoy. Viewing a large body of work in one place comprised of material covering a wide range of subjects, printing techniques and methods of mounting is a great educational opportunity not to be missed, no matter what level of photographic skill you possess. The ability to discuss the work shown and exchange information directly with print makers is an added benefit. Having the print room filled with great photographs and appreciative visitors makes all the hard work associated with holding this event worthwhile.

NECCC CONFERENCE PRINT COMPETITION, July 16, 2022
AMHERST, MA

B&W PRINTS—Honor Award (Blue Ribbons)			
Print #	Title	Maker	Club
5	Gnarled Tree	Vincent Ferrari	Bowie-Crofton Camera Club
8	Two Trees in Fog	Allison Maltese	Coastal Camera Club
10	Great Egret	Dianne Carey	Nashoba Valley Photo Club
17	Abandoned #1	Debbie Owen	Cape Cod Viewfinders Camera Club
24	Bath Covered Bridge	Rick Tyrseck	Candlewood Camera Club
25	Doin Time	Barbara Crane	Wantagh Camera Club
26	Balance	Ralph Lebel	Photographers Forum Camera Club
27	Screech Owl Pair	Sandy Selesky	Nashoba Valley Photo Club
30	Lotus Blossom	Jean-Marie Proulx	Cape Cod Art Center Camera Club
40	The Sea Sentinel	Domenick Creaco	South Shore Camera Club of NY
47	Heron in the Rain	Dave Young	Greater Lynn Photographic Assoc.
48	A Peek Through Irish Clouds	Karl Zuzarte	Photographic Society of RI
49	Grand Canyon Vista	Glenn Guaraldi	Homosassa, Florida
50	Sweetwater Lake	Dimitry Papkov	Clinton, MA
52	Alaska Mountains	Jutta Curtin	Merrimack Valley Camera Club
B&W MEMORIAL AWARDS			
"Willem Pannebaker Memorial Award" (Best Still Life--B/W)			
26	Balance	Ralph Lebel	Photographers Forum Camera Club
"John Vondell Memorial Award" (Best Landscape--B/W)			
5	Gnarled Tree	Vincent Ferrari	Bowie-Crofton Camera Club
"William J. Barrett Memorial Award" (Best Nature--B/W)			
27	Screech Owl Pair	Sandy Selesky	Nashoba Valley Photo Club
"Douglas H. Wanser Memorial Award" (Best Portrait—B/W)			
25	Doin Time	Barbara Crane	Wantagh Camera Club
"Claude C. Sibley Memorial Award" (Best Seascape—B/W)			
40	The Sea Sentinel	Domenick Creaco	South Shore Camera Club of NY
BEST B&W PRINT IN CONFERENCE COMPETITION			
48	A Peek Through Irish Clouds	Karl Zuzarte	Photographic Society of RI
B&W JUDGE'S CHOICE AWARDS			
Judge:	Ray Guillette		
No.	Title:	Maker:	Club
52	Alaska Mountains	Jutta Curtin	Merrimack Valley Camera Club
Judge:	Sarah Musumeci		
No.	Title:	Maker:	Club:
10	Great Egret	Dianne Carey	Nashoba Valley Photo Club
Judge:	Dave Parsons		
No.	Title:	Maker:	Club:
17	Abandoned #1	Debbie Owen	Cape Cod Viewfinders Camera Club

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