



Keeping Camera Clubs Active

Organized by
[NECCC.org](https://www.NECCC.org)

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April 20, 2023

[Group.NECCC.org/Active](https://www.Group.NECCC.org/Active)

Keeping Clubs Active



Share and learn from other clubs



You decide what is best for your club



Just do it!

A group of camera club members with similar interests, goals, and concerns

Agenda for April 20, 2023

7:00 – Informal conversations as people join

7:30 – Meeting kickoff & News – Chane Cullens

7:40 – NECCC hot topics – Rhonda Cullens

8:00 – Discussion topics

- Examples of running hybrid (in person + online) meetings from three clubs (small, medium and large)
- Using your ideas for changes to NECCC digital interclub?
- Photo quality impacts when using online competitions

News – Tech Note Results

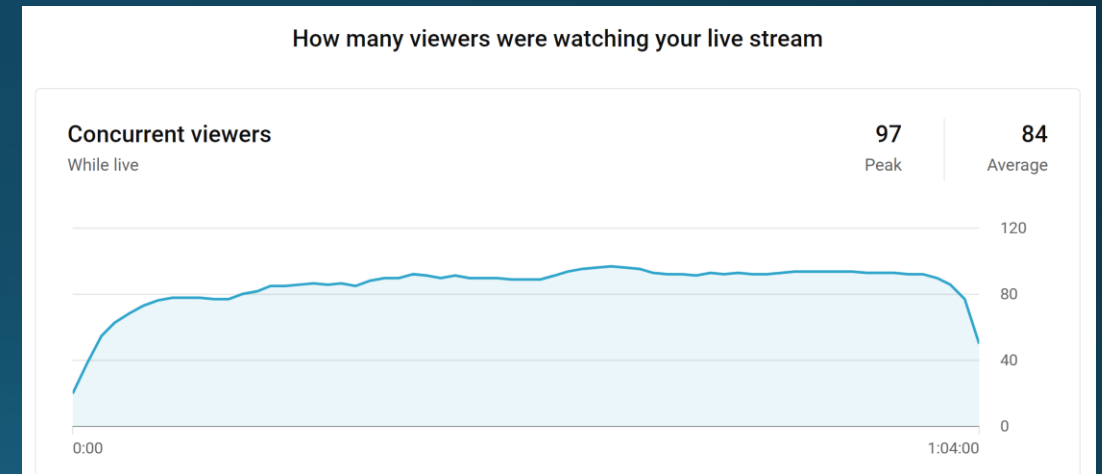
Livestreaming Zoom judging meeting using YouTube

All paid Zoom plans include the
YouTube livestream ability.

Keeps Zoom attendees to a
minimum.

Unlimited YouTube watchers

April 18, NECCC Digital
Interclub Judging
Livestreaming
90+ People Joined!



Since the competition
another 60 people have
watched the recording.

Nature, Bird, and Night Photography with Lisa Cuchara

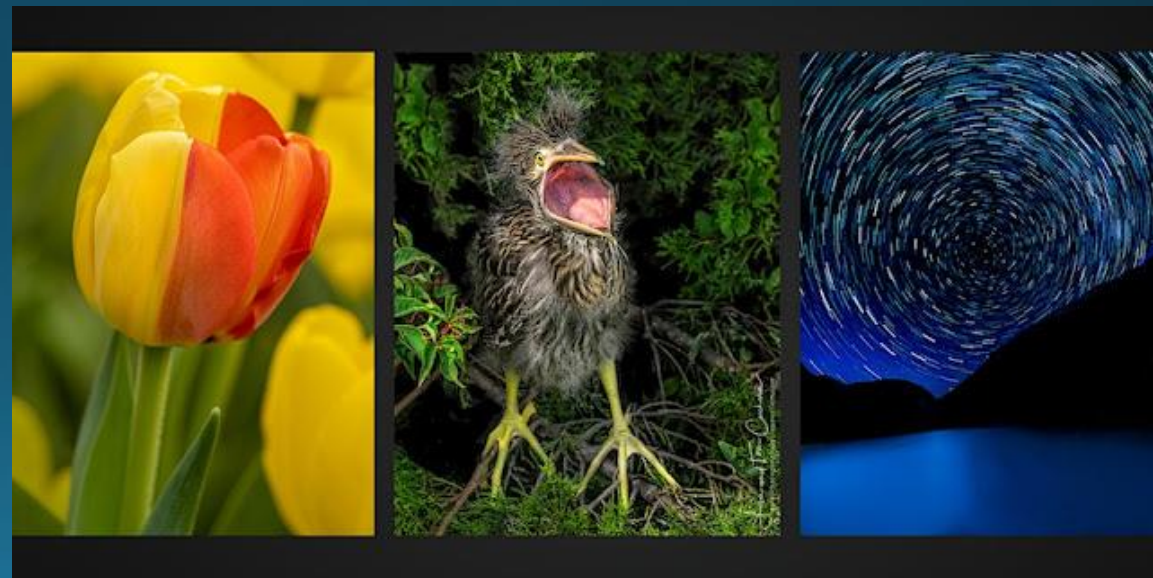
Thursday, April 27th 5-6pm eastern

Join award-winning photographer and OM SYSTEM Ambassador Lisa Cuchara as she guides you through exactly how she takes her stunning photos

Please share the link with friends
-- this will be a fun event!

Register for Free

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nature-bird-and-night-photography-with-om-system-ambassador-lisa-cuchara-tickets-609057315827?aff=lisa>



News – Anyone Have Anything to Share?

NECCCC Hot Topics

Rhonda Cullens

NECCC Photography Conferences

Special NECCC Event for 2023

Online July 15, 2023 – 1 to 4 pm

Keynotes by Art Wolfe &
Bryan F. Peterson!

Registration starts soon!

Cost is only \$20!



Mark your
calendars for
Saturday,
July 15!

Send your club members to
NECCCPhotoConference.org
for the latest info.



We are in the early stages of planning an exciting in-person conference for 2024! Our current plan is for a one-day event with optional workshops. We will keep you updated as our planning progresses, so stay tuned for more information on the return to in person events.

2023 NECCC Photography Conference

Art Wolfe – Keynote Speaker #1

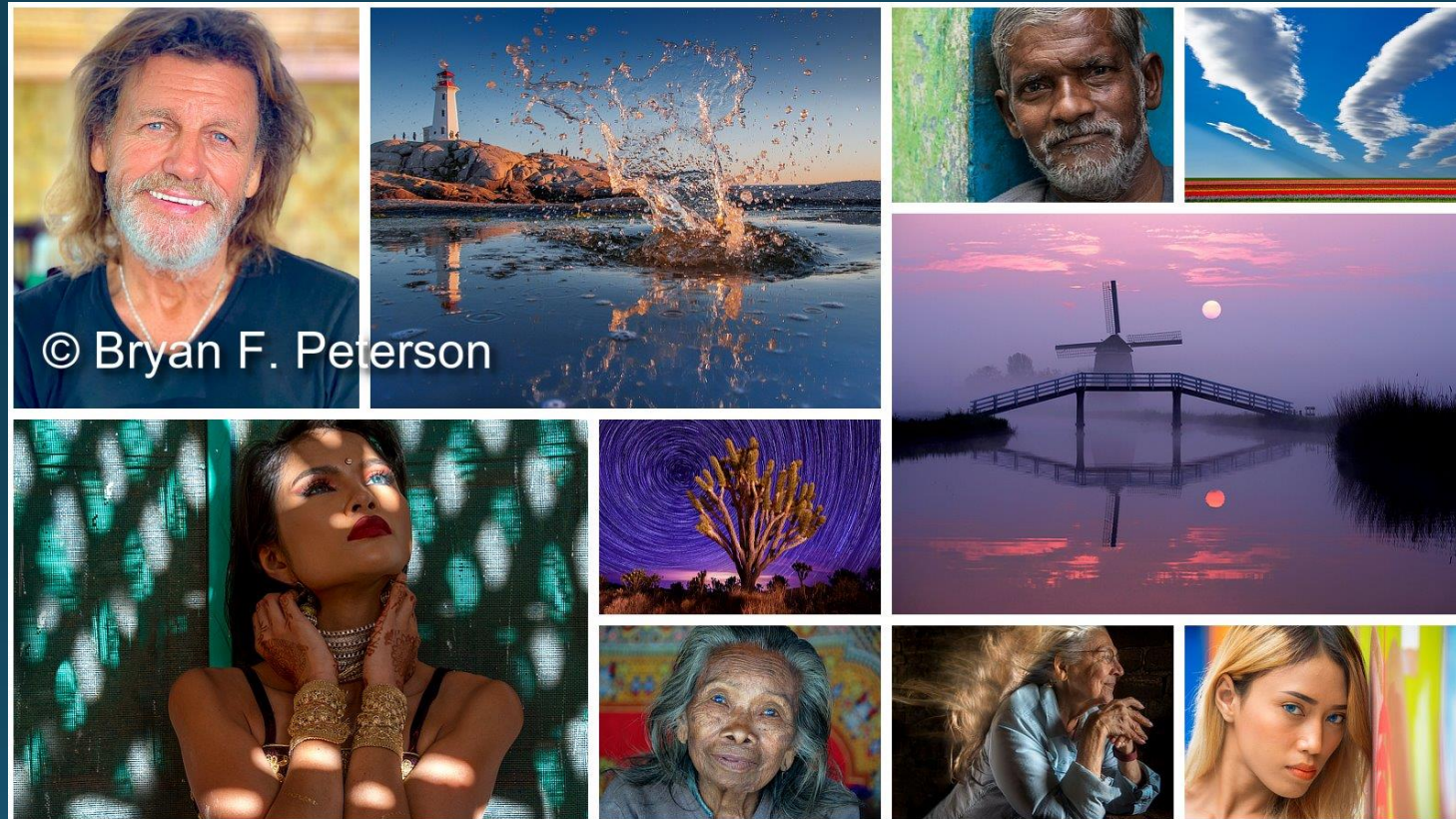


“Art Wolfe’s photographs are a superb evocation of some of the most breathtaking spectacles in the world.” – Sir David Attenborough

*“Art Wolfe’s work tells a story that is overwhelming, breathtaking, and vast.”
– Robert Redford*

2023 NECCC Photography Conference

Bryan F. Peterson – Keynote Speaker #2



"Of all the photography books I have on my bookshelf, and believe me, I have quite a few, this is the one that stands out as the most helpful. It is the first one I recommend to new photographers and it is one that I refer to when I need a bit of a refresher. It will take the fear out of moving from the point and shoot modes to the creative modes of your camera."
- Digital Photography School

NECCC Annual Meeting

For all Club Reps and Club Presidents

What

- Luncheon
- 2023 Reps Service Awards
- 2023 Honors Presentations
- 2023 Board of Directors Voting

When

- June 24, 2023 – Saturday
- Watch for invite in April

Where

- UMass Amherst

You Be the Judge Miniseries

**Registration opens
soon**

**Episode 4 – Friday,
May 19**

Exploring Your Questions Panel Discussion

A panel of experts will answer audience-generated questions in this Ask Me Anything session about the topics discussed in the You Be the Judge Miniseries.

You Be the Judge Miniseries Info Center

Registration link, handouts and recordings.

[Group.NECCC.org/Judge](https://www.group.neccc.org/judge)

It's Never Too Late to Watch or Watch Again!

Episode 1 – **Evaluating Nature Images** – [Recording and Handouts](#)

Episode 2 – **Making Competitive Nature Images** – [Recording and Handouts](#)

Episode 3 – **Using a Photo's Impact to Influence Commenting** – [Recording and Handouts](#)

We have received excellent feedback on the sessions!

I've just watched the two presentations you did about judging for the NECCC miniseries, and I can't express to you with enough accolades how fantastic the presentation is on so many levels. While I've garnered bits and pieces of this kind of information through my years of participation at the club, there has never been a resource (that I've run across) that presents this exact information in such an easy to understand, concise way. – Darcy

I've been a judge since 2013 and I think I'm pretty good at it, but have certainly learned from your presentation tonight. Very good guidance through all of this. - Jürgen

You Be the Judge Miniseries Info Center

Registration link, handouts and recordings.

Group.NECCC.org/Judge

NECCC Judges List – New Detailed Info

NECCC.org → Club Services → 6.2 List of Judges

New leader - Mike DiStefano

List includes

- Judging Experience
 - How long, type of competitions
- Judging Category Preferences
 - Digital, Print, Nature, Open ...
- Judging Meeting Preferences
 - In person, Online, Commenting ...

<https://w.neccc.org/judge-application/>

Call to Action

- When you have a good judge, ask them to complete the NECCC judge application
- Send their name to Mike DiStefano at madmanmiked@hotmail.com

Discussion on Hybrid Meetings

Examples of running hybrid (in person + online) meetings from three clubs (small, medium and large)

- Chane & Rhonda Cullens - Flagpole
- John Straub – Simsbury
- Frank Schimmoller – Gateway

Flagpole Photographers – Small Audience

3. TV Meeting Room View



2. HDMI Cable

1. Laptop Zoom Screen Sharing on Wi-Fi



Remote View

Speaker Thumb



John Straub - Simsbury

Medium Audience

John's slide are in another handout

Frank Schimmoller – Gateway

Large Audience

Frank's slide are in another handout

Digital Interclub Changes for Next Year

- Working to finalize the decisions

Adding Monochrome?

Current

- Pictorial: A - 26 clubs, B - 13 clubs
Nature: A - 20 clubs, B - 18 clubs
Total clubs: 41
- Photos per competition: ~300
Competitions – Fall, Winter, Spring
- Classes: A – Advanced, B – Basic
- 12 photos per year per category
- Pictorial to be renamed “Open”

Are You Ready for Monochrome?

- For years, clubs have been asking for monochrome
- Monochrome pays homage to where photography began and is an important expression of our art
- Monochrome represents about 15% of our Interclub Pictorial photos

**Would your club participate
in Monochrome?**

Launch Poll

Category Rules

Stays the Same

- PSA for Nature – no changes
- Continue to work on:

Photographer

Knows the rules + Ethics



Club Submitter

Verifies photographer followed rules



Judge

Gives the photo the benefit of the doubt
to focus on evaluating the photo

Use PSA for Open Color & Mono?

- Similar to NECCC rules
 - Unrestricted subject and unlimited edits
 - All parts your own work, not someone else's art, captured light, not AI generated
 - Respect welfare of living creatures
 - Monochrome is a single tone
- Ready for PSA competitions, if your club entries PSA competitions

Deadlines

Stays the Same

- You must submit photos by the scheduled deadline
- You must register by Sep 15th
- No makeups

Helpful Deadline Emails Continue

- Now from ClubServices@NECCC.org
- Expect 4 emails
 - 2 months before deadline
 - 1 month
 - 1 week
 - 1 day

Communicating Results

Today

- Email competition leaders
- USPS mail for sending award ribbons to Rep
- Post PDF of report ← similar
- Post Winner's gallery ← similar

More Communication

- Email competition leaders plus Rep, President and NECCC board
- Post gallery with all photos

Upload Changes

New upload technology

- Change photo and info, until close
- File size “limit” 40MBs (15,000x15,000)
- Upload auto-resizes when needed, no resize if fits, aspect ratio preserved
- Checks if non-sRGB color space
- View what the judge sees, rotation and background
- Upload immediately displays success indicator. No email acknowledgment.
- View uploads from previous competitions as we continue to use

Changes

- For security, the upload requires sign in. Account info will be provided.
- Moving to 1920x1080 (1K) resolution
- 1K (aka HDTV) is already used by some PSA competitions (not PSA Interclub)
 - PSA Individual Portrait
 - PSA Individual Creative
 - PSA Photo Story
 - PSA Short Story
- A few clubs are requesting 4K, which matches most new TVs and many new PCs. Maybe in a year or two judges will be ready.

Scoring

Today

- 3 – not used
- 4 – for disqualified
- 5 – for photographs that are below average for the class being judged
- 6 – for photographs that are average for the class
- 7 or 8 – for photographs above the class average
- 9 – for the two or three photographs that are the best in each class

Based on discussion disqualified remains 4 points

More Judging Visibility & Flexibility

1. Half-points available: 5, 5.5, 6, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9
2. Judges have access to titles when scoring
3. Judges should communicate with each other about disqualified photos
 - Spring 2023, 6 photos disqualified by all judges, 4 other photos had at least 1 judge disqualify

Disqualified score moves from 12 points (4 points per judge) to zero points.

Judges Early Access and Remote Scoring

Today

- Varies by club
- We continue to receive extremely positive feedback on allowing the judges to have days to look at the photos

Changes

- NECCC provides remote scoring solution
 - Tested with Spring 2023 competition!
- Host clubs focus on
 1. Finding judges
 2. Managing the process
 3. Holding meeting to present photos and scores (live streaming if feasible)
- No spreadsheets, scoring and reports generated by new system

1 Photo Per Person, Per Category

Stays the Same

- It happens at least once every competition
- Too often we receive two entries for one individual in a single category
 1. Person belongs to more than one club
 2. Or, two entries for an individual from a single club
- The final check can only happen after all photos are uploaded

Results the Same

- Photo removed from competition
- “Score” is zero

- If we identify obvious issues before the deadline, we’ll let you know

Previously Summited Photos **Reused**

Today

- Clubs need to track and check every photo from every person
- A new member to your club, may have submitted a photo 10 years ago at another club which could be a duplicate.
- [View example](#)
- It happens at least once every competition
- Photo removed from competition
- “Score” is zero

Changes are Required

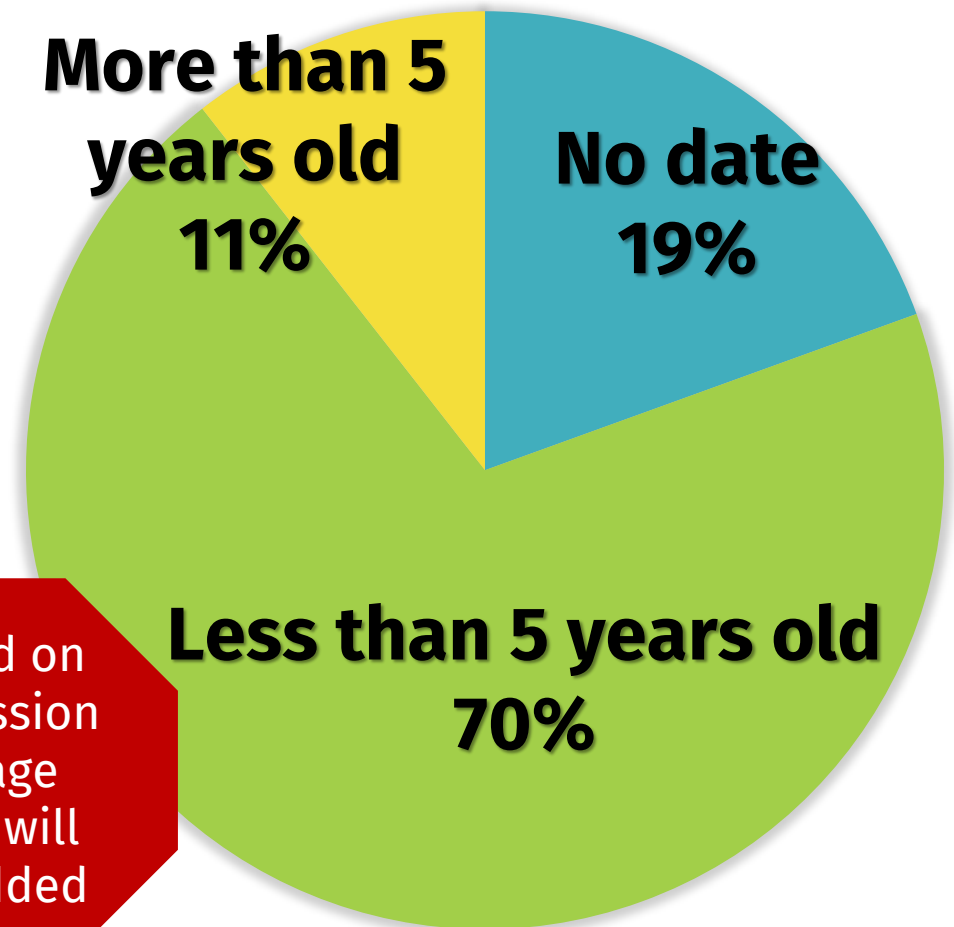
- The concept, don't submit a photo again, is 100% valid.
- The tracking by clubs gets worse every year.
- The checking by NECCC is a huge manual process that gets worse every year.
- There must be a better way!
- What if Camera Clubs invest in encouraging photographers to take new photos, instead of investing in more archiving and checking?

How to Reduce Club & NECCC Checking?

Ideas

- We must stop requiring that clubs and NECCC look at a dozen+ years of archives.
- If we require all photos to be taken in the last few years, the checking becomes more reasonable.
- If NECCC provides an online searchable archive of the last few years, it reduces the need for a club archive – [Show Gallery](#)
- Today, most clubs use photos taken in the last few years, encourage more of this.
- Upload tool can alert when photo date is more than the last few years old.
- The key decision is, what is a good choice for “the last few years”?

2023 Spring 302 Photos



Based on discussion
no age
limit will
be added

4604 photos – last 5 seasons

All Photos Gallery

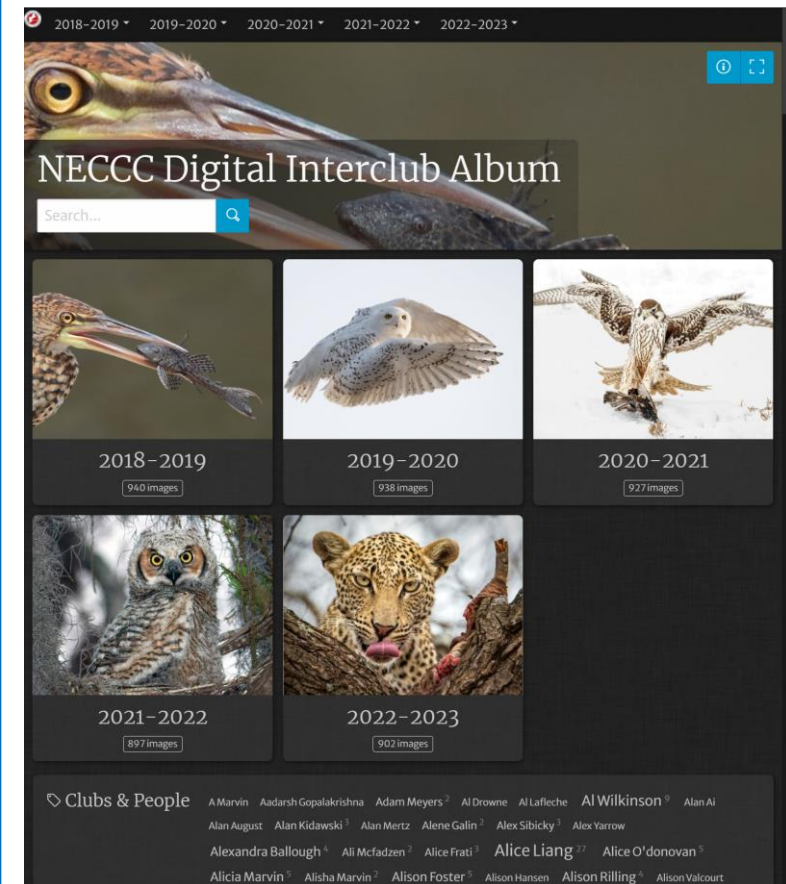
NECC.org

→ Interclub Digital Comp
4,604 photos – last 5 seasons

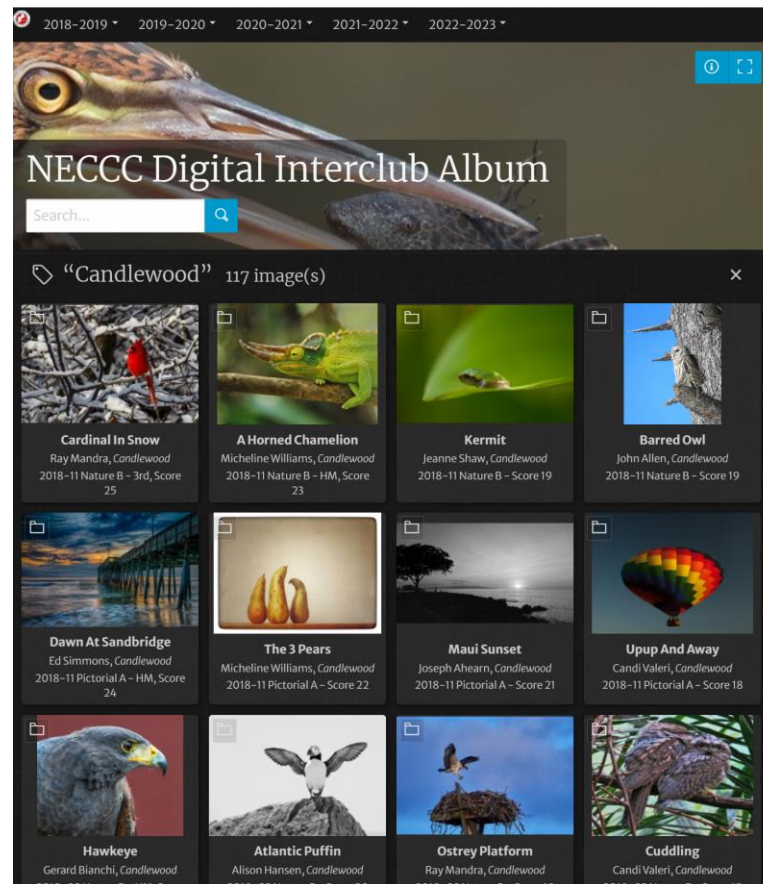
Search by Club or Photographer

Search for Candlewood

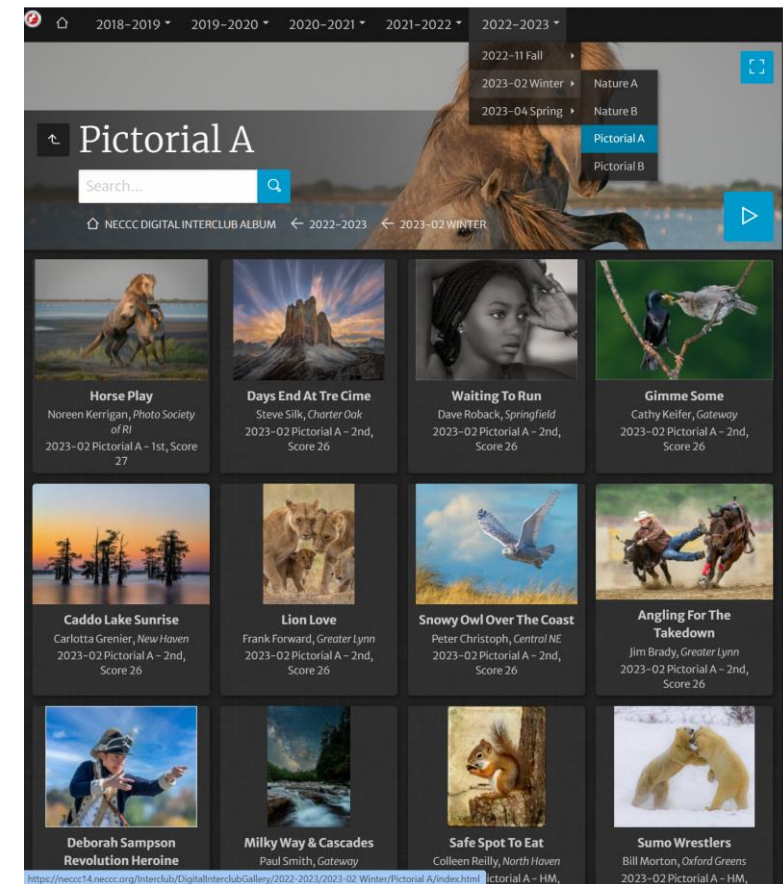
Browse to Specific Competitions



Use search area or click on a club or photographer name at the bottom of the page



Photos sorted by competition, then by score

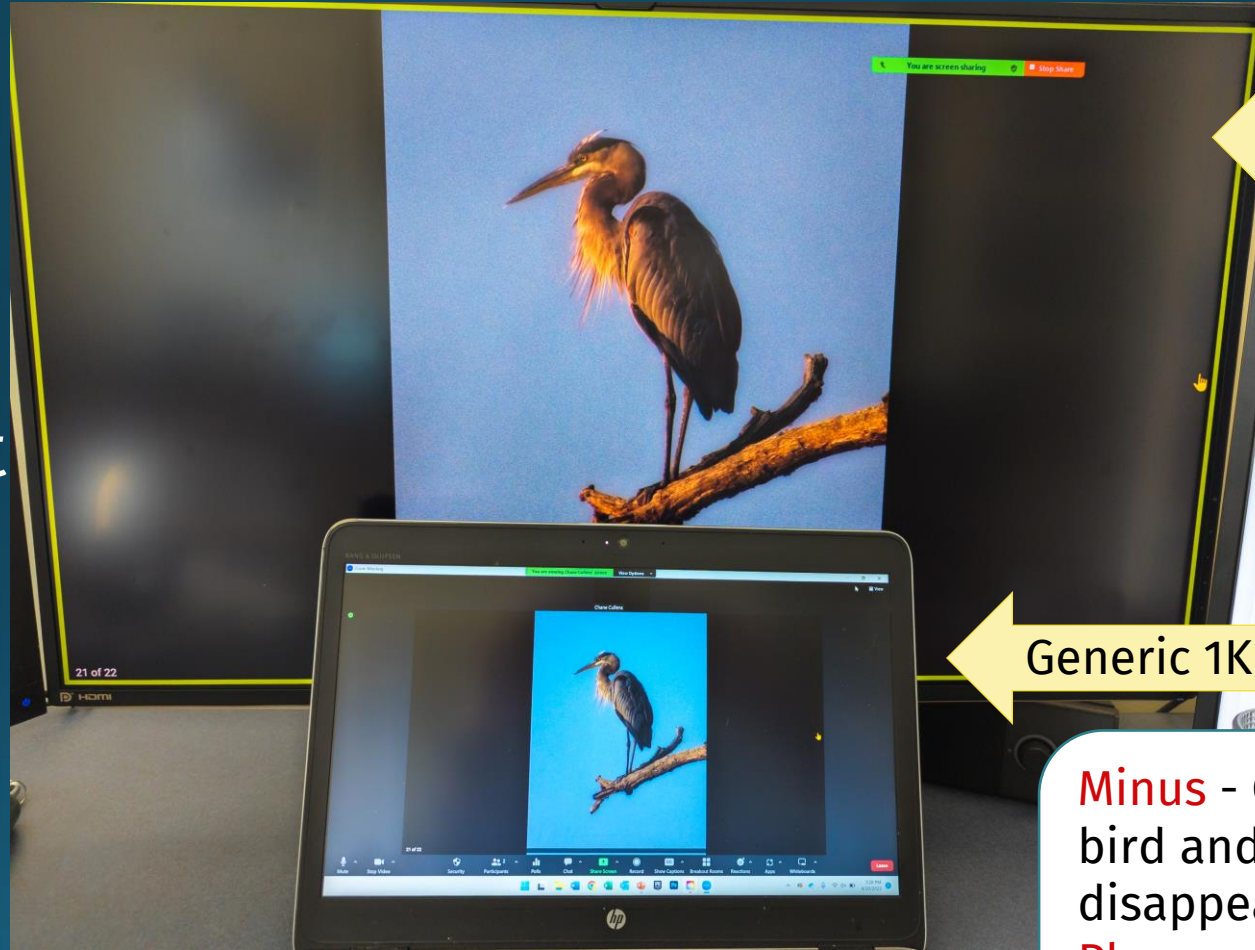


Photos sorted by score. Info text includes Title, Photographer, Club, Competition Date, Award and score.

Photo Quality Impacts in Online Meetings

Problem Area #1

- Wide range of resolution and sizes
- Inconsistent contrast and color settings



4K color tuned

Generic 1K laptop

Minus - Golden light on bird and branch nearly disappears on laptop
Plus - poor quality background looks visually better on laptop

You will not see everything I'm talking about on your screen!

Like the requirement to color tune your meeting room projector or TV

Screen captures from source 1K device sharing to remote 1K laptop.

Focus Area

Remote laptop quality reduced.
Judges question
Is it sharp?



Individual hairs visible



Detail noticeably diminished

Summary

Quality summary

- Sharp photos look less sharp.
- Dull photos might look better.

The quality loss tradeoff is balanced by the flexibility to offer remote attendance.

Consider providing photo image files to the judges.

Note: Every online meeting vendor compresses video before delivering it to remote viewers. This is not a “Zoom”-only issue.