

Pinelands Juried Photo Exhibit 2023 Finalist Biographies

Matt Baron

I love photography as it inspires me to capture beautiful moments in time that have forever passed. My mind is at ease seeing an otherwise ordinary scene and transforming it into the extraordinary with the help of my camera. It keeps me active and provides an opportunity to spend time in the beautiful outdoors. Photography, to me, isn't simply being in the right place at the right time; it's a true passion that requires learning, research, planning, and sacrifice, among many other things. I've been an active Piney for the last five years since moving here from Maine. Most days after the conclusion of my workday, I'm either heading into the woods on a hike, exploring the endless swamps, or experiencing a beachfront sunset. You'll almost always find my camera bag in tow. I enjoy finding new, hidden, off-the-beaten-path spots and finding the best time to capture their splendor.

Richard Basner

Involved in photography since 1967 when the U.S. Air Force asked for a volunteer to take photos as an additional duty. After volunteering, the Air Force sent me to the Leica Schule at the Leica factory in Wetzlar, Germany where I attended classes with two Look and Life Magazine Photographers, the Secretary of the Royal Photographic Society of London, and others who obviously had a world of experience more than I. I felt really out of place. However, looking back on that experience, I learned so much from the other "students" as much as the Leica instructors. Later, I would take the standard Community College of the USAF Course in photography while I was training-on-the-job. The Air Force provided a Super Crown Graphic 4"x5" press camera and all the film I needed to learn the craft. Also, the AF Base had a Photo Lab manned by 3 professional USAF Photographers who took me under their wings and taught me how to process and print my photos in the darkroom. Today, I am retired, pursuing my passion of photography, leading a local photo club, and running the "NJ Bird & Wildlife Photography" Facebook Group. I particularly enjoy Wildlife, Landscape, Aviation/Airshows, and Event photography. Since I live and practice photography in The Pinelands, I feel a responsibility to capture and communicate It's natural beauty and to advocate for it's long-term preservation for future generations.

Robert Boyd

I am a nature photographer living on the island of Brigantine Beach, New Jersey. I developed my love of observing nature from living near the beaches and wetlands my whole life. I began to photograph local wildlife in my own backyard and eventually frequented the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Brigantine Division, where I am exposed to an endless cycle of wildlife and landscapes with each changing season. Edwin B. Forsythe Wildlife Refuge is located within the New Jersey Pinelands, where I capture its natural beauty on almost a daily basis.

Michael Coleman

My name is Michael Coleman and this is the first time I've been a finalist in the Pinelands

Alliance Photo Contest. I live in Woodland Township, a retired State Correction Officers and have been behind a camera off and on since 1971. I've been photographing nature, the outdoors, and a wide variety of subject for a while and hope to continue for several more years.

Carmen R Daccurso

My name is Carmen R. Daccurso. I currently reside in Howell, New Jersey with my wife and family. I have been a resident of Monmouth County, New Jersey all my life. I enjoy traveling and taking pictures. I have been taking pictures of wildlife and landscape for many years, but have recently intensified my interest and my skills with mastering taking and editing images. Taking pictures in nature has become a place for me to find peace and solitude. I have discovered through my journey with the art of taking pictures that I inhabit a hidden talent that I can share with anyone who appreciates the beauty of nature. Through my journey with photography and posting my images on social media, I have been able to share the love of nature and wildlife with thousands of people who have grown to appreciate New Jersey's fantastic resources. I often choose the Pinelands as my venue for locating wildlife and scenes of nature. The Pinelands are rich in a variety of types of birds, scenic landscapes, and other live photographic imagery like butterflies, squirrels, and amphibians. I consider the Pinelands a peaceful place to retreat to on the weekends or my days off from work for locating optimal opportunities for photography and a place to breathe fresh air. I often visit Pineland areas like Edmin B. Forsyth National Wildlife Reserve, The Rookery in Ocean City, and Bass River State Forest.

Daniel D'Auria

Daniel was born in New York in 1957, then raised in New Jersey. He currently works as a physician in southern New Jersey, alongside being an award-winning photographer and amateur potter. His interest in photography began early in junior high school, although his passion for wildlife photography only blossomed over the last 15 years. He maintains that the observation of nature and wildlife has always brought him fulfillment. Photography allows him to bring that experience home and share it with others. "I believe that a good photograph should tell a story. The story may be different for each individual observer, but a story, nonetheless. I hope to inspire others to help preserve our natural world." "The Pinelands are my home. Although I have traveled the world in order to photograph wildlife, I find some of the most intimate moments in nature here at home. It is here that I get to investigate the sometimes spectacular, subtleties that the casual visitor might otherwise miss." Amongst his numerous awards, Dr. D'Auria was awarded high honors in Nature's Best Photo competition in 2018. His photograph spent a year in the Smithsonian. He received high honors in the National Wildlife Photography competition the following year. He has received top awards in Smithsonian's Aerial America photo contest in 2011, and was a finalist in Smithsonian's 11th annual photo contest in 2014. His photos have been included in Audubon's top 100 photos in their annual competition and has one of the top 25 photos for the year on Flickr.com in 2018. He has had a solo exhibit through the Noyes Museum of Art and has a number of other awards and publications. In addition to his photography, Daniel D'Auria has written and published a series of wildlife-themed children's books that are sold online and in select national parks under the pen name "DrDADBooks." Visit his body of work at <https://flickr.com/photos/drdad/> Website www.danieldauria.co

John Dolph

I especially enjoy capturing scenes that are transient, but which I would want to revisit later, or study in more detail, or share with others. Photographing scenes and objects in motion, or while in motion, is even more of a challenge and more satisfying when it works. This perfectly describes my experiences paddling down the scenic and remote winding rivers of the Pine Barrens. Being in a moving boat and unable to stop and dawdle, taking clear photos from a kayak (and wanting to stay upright) is just one of the challenges I most enjoy in the Pinelands.

Phil Domitrowsky

Photography was always an interest to me throughout my whole life. Twenty years ago I moved from Northern New Jersey to Little Egg Harbor and my interest became a passion. From the first time I drove through the Pine Barrens, my photography interest evolved into my creative outlet. When I started capturing images of the seasons, the flora, the wildlife, and so many other subjects, I realized what I loved about the Pine Barrens. No matter how many times you drive down the same roads, you can always see something different, Whether it is the lighting or the topology, it is constantly changing. The Pine Barrens have always been a place for me to go and just wind down after a long week and Photography plays a therapeutic role in my life.

John Eory

My interest in photography began many years ago while in the Army and deployed at the Korean DMZ. The uniqueness of the countryside provided a great introduction to landscape shooting with my well-worn Nikon F. Years later I discovered the Pinelands which likewise never disappoint whatever season, weather condition, or hour. My special thanks go to Richard Lewis whose guided excursions are a fixture in my calendar.

Kimberly Farro

I grew up in a town surrounded by the NJ Pine Barrens and have loved photography and nature since I was a teenager. I received my first interchangeable lens DSLR camera from my mother as a gift at age 19 and have been behind the lens ever since. I started out shooting landscapes, nature, and wildlife mostly, and my favorite subject to shoot has always been birds. I went to college for business with a concentration in marketing and advertising and took a digital photography course for fun which only helped grow my passion for photography even more. Currently, I am the Director of Marketing for a local physical therapy company with over 30 locations and I do all of the content creation photography and videography myself. I also own my own business, Kimberly Farro Photography LLC, where I shoot mostly portrait work including boudoir, maternity, family, and branding. What I love about photography is that it gives you the ability to tell a story without saying a single word. It is important to me because I use it as a creative outlet; it's a way to express myself to others and let them see something through my eyes, the way I want it to be seen. I often choose the Pinelands as a subject for my work because I love being out among nature and the peace and serenity it brings. I have the utmost respect for the Pine Barrens and all of the creatures within its ecosystem. Being able to capture them through my camera and bring a piece of them home with me without disturbing them brings me great joy.

Robert Ferguson

The New Jersey Pine Barrens have intrigued me for the entirety of my life. The habitat, the colors, the smells, the Northern and Southern-affinity flora and fauna colliding together in harmony; the place is mysteriously beautiful. Locating animals is frustratingly intoxicating, but tremendously rewarding. The bottom line is I'm addicted to the Pinelands and could wax poetic for days... I have forever been a believer of conservation through education, even before I really grasped the idea. I've also always been a share-junkie. The two fit together perfectly. I live to share my experiences with the world. I live to bring people closer to nature. I, of course, live to be in nature, myself! I want to bring the natural world to people's computer screens and household walls, in hopes that it motivates them to get out and enjoy it themselves. This is a critical time in our history here on Earth. The world has changed many times over, but never on such a grand scale has it changed directly by the human species. We are at a turning point and the future looks bleak for a high percentage of our species. I've always felt that if you aren't part of the solution, you are part of the problem. Photography is one way to make a difference and get people excited about the natural world around them. Here's the truth: "People protect what they love." - Jacques-Yves Cousteau

Anthony Ferraina

My name is Anthony Ferraina age 68 graduated from Stockton College in 1976. Retired after 42 years in the accounting field. I have always had an interest in nature and loved photography. I love to hike and walk through the forest. I find great peace and joy in watching a Bald Eagle soar or just the pine trees swaying in the wind. I live in the Pinelands so it was easy to pick the Pinelands as my subject. Beautiful lakes, streams and sunsets, endless trails, and many types of wildlife to be photographed. I say enjoy what you do and do what you enjoy.

Aleja Estronza

I have had a passion for photography for well over 10 years. I am drawn to the beauty of landscapes and the forever-changing sky no matter the time of day but never limit myself. My professional background is in both web and digital design. I currently sit on the board at Whitesbog Preservation Trust as Secretary. I am also very active as a volunteer at the Gallery at Whitesbog. I often hold photography meetups for like-minded people to gather and have fun out in nature.

Gregory Fischer

Gregory Fischer is an environmental scientist at a local consulting firm. In his free time, he enjoys birding, herping, and exploring everything nature has to offer. His photography mostly focuses on wildlife; he believes that photographing and sharing images of animals in their natural habitats is one of the best ways to get people interested in conservation. The New Jersey Pinelands serves as an excellent backdrop for wildlife photography, with beautiful and unique forests, wetlands, and coastal areas.

Rich Gess

Rich Gess is an amateur photographer and a lifelong resident of Southern New Jersey. His interest in photography began as a teenager with the purchase of a 35mm SLR camera and has continued for a span of over 50 years. His photographs focus on Nature and concentrate on birds in their natural habitat. He has exhibited his photographs in juried photography shows and has

won numerous awards including a Best of Show in the Ocean City Arts Center 2022 Juried Photography Show. In 2022, Rich and his wife Lore chronicled a year of hiking on a local nature trail with an exhibit of photographs taken during over 1000 miles of daily walks. The Earth Day exhibit showcased the plants, butterflies, mammals, and 120 species of birds that they observed during all four seasons. They reside in Glassboro and are Gloucester County Certified Gardeners where they volunteer at community gardens.

Keara Giannotti

I am a naturalist, environmental educator, and the founder/director of Camp Creek Run, a 50-acre nonprofit camp & nature preserve, located within the Pinelands National Reserve, that is dedicated to connecting children with the natural world. I've spent my whole life exploring the Pine Barrens, but feel like I've barely scratched the surface of this mysterious, humbling, and unique ecosystem, which is a constant source of inspiration, learning, magic, and solace. I embrace nature study as both a science and an art form: My goal with nature photography is not only to capture the beauty of my subject, but to create composed, field guide-worthy pictures that document intimate, macro details of plants, animals, and fungi, portraying diagnostic field marks so they can be used as a reference to further my own understanding as well educate others. I love to investigate nature deeply, and I love to look. I share my photos and natural history observations on Instagram: <https://Instagram.com/Keara.Giannotti> and those posts can also be found on my website www.LetsGoGetLost.org.

Shawn Glass

As a child, I spent many hours playing in the woods of South Jersey, reading nature books and picking up whatever bugs and "critters" I could find. As a young adult, for some time I assumed that New Jersey had less to offer in terms of biodiversity than most of the country (and the world.) I was wrong! I began exploring the Pines in earnest about 8 years ago and haven't looked back. Each time I encounter one of the many unique plants or animals fostered by this environment is exciting. I started taking photos of them, both to re-live those moments for myself, and to share them with others. I want people who live here to know that they don't have to watch a TV program or travel across the world to see beautiful landscapes and amazing creatures - they are right in our "backyard" if we take the time to find and appreciate them. Another photographer I respect said simply, "I fell in love with it, because it makes me stop a little longer when I see something interesting or beautiful." I thought that was a great way to convey the appeal and why, as a hobby, it is so fulfilling. I hope to 'stop a little longer' in the Pinelands for many years to come.

Michelle Gober

Photography is important to me because I find it challenging and rewarding. You never know what you are going to capture. Many factors come into play - the weather, the right place, the right time, and the right three camera settings. It gets me outside (my favorite place to be) and if I finally find something to photograph I am excited and hopeful that I capture something worth sharing. The Pinelands was the subject of my art because that is where I spend a lot of my free time. It was my backyard growing up and my first job in high school was keeping Lebanon State Forest clean. I have always loved wildlife and that is my favorite thing to photograph. The Pinelands is a place that will always remind me of my childhood. It helps me escape, relax and reflect.

Rafal Goraczniak

Edward Abbey once said, “A man on foot, on horseback or on a bicycle will see more, feel more, enjoy more in one mile than the motorized tourists can in a hundred miles”. For me, photography does exactly this thing. The camera is like a break, that helps me slow down to engage more deeply with where I am in space and time. From the Pine Barrens of New Jersey to the high desert of the Colorado Plateau, I find inspiration in what is often overlooked, the simple things that are hidden in an intimate landscape. In my work, I strive to create unique but realistic images with a surreal twist; photographs that offer visual metaphors for thoughts and feelings, rather than simply record the reality surrounding me.

Bruce Goodman

My interest in photography is not only to record what I see, but my attempt to share how I envision a scene, whether it is a landscape, a street photo, or more recently - wildlife. As a lifelong NJ resident (albeit, in north Jersey), I have had a long interest in the Pine Barrens, starting with hearing stories from a family member who taught school in the area. I always enjoyed hearing about the turtles, snakes, and other animals his students would bring to school for show-and-tell. I recently reread [The Pine Barrens](#), by John McPhee. While the book was published in the late 60's and looks back to earlier periods of the area, McPhee's writing left me with a desire to see the Pine Barrens as they are today. Since I was going to be in south Jersey for several days this past fall, I planned several early morning and sunset outings, first reading about the history of each area, and then exploring and photographing the places I had researched. It was fascinating to read more about the people who lived in the area, the legacies they left behind, and to witness the beauty of the Pine Barrens. “Trying to capture a slice of life - one photograph at a time”.

Martin Kavanagh

I was born in Dublin, Ireland. Blessed with an innate love of art and the outdoors, I spent hours of my childhood and youth drawing and painting and exploring the woods and the mountains around Dublin. America is the land of opportunity and so I came here in 1978 to improve my lot in life. I retired in 2018 after a long successful career in the printing industry. I love hiking and camping and my interest in photography began when I bought a camera to photograph my trips. The photos were awful, so to improve my photography skills and images I studied at the New York Institute of Photography. In 2005, my first Digital camera, a Nikon D 200, combined with Photoshop, opened a whole new world of creativity for me. My first exhibition was a collaboration of my nature photos and a friend's paintings of horses. She introduced me to the equine world and this led to my collaboration with Author Loren Spiotta-DiMare on a book, published in 2009, called “Beyond the Finish Line” see link here: [Beyond The Finish Line: Stories Of Ex-Racehorses | Lorens Reading Room](#). The Pine Barrens has always played a special role in my life. Over the years I've camped, hiked and canoed there and absorbed and felt the magic and beauty of the green pines, white sandy trails, and tea-colored rivers. Now retired, one of my goals is to take photos that capture this wonderful beauty and share it with other folks.

Matt Loeber

My name is Matthew Loeber and I was born and bred in 1968 in South Jersey in a town called

Washington Township. My earliest memories of the Pinelands of NJ are driving home through the backroads of the Pinelands from the Jersey Shore after vacations, my dad knew all the “secret routes“ to travel home to beat traffic and they always led through the Pinelands. I learned what a cranberry bog was because of these “secret routes”. I also learned about the “Jersey Devil” stories as well on these rides through Leeds Point, so it was a bit of a scary place to drive through as a young child! Growing up in the early 70s, we always had cameras and photos in our house, my mom worked in the camera department at KMart and Woolco’s department stores in Jersey and there were always photos in my house and funky, cool and cheap new cameras to snap pics with; that’s how the love of photography and photos came about. I graduated from The Art Institute of Philadelphia in 1994, the city I have lived in since, with a degree in Photography and have mainly focused on selling and hanging large works of photography on various papers and substrates in different galleries and buildings in and around the Tri-State area for 30 years, including American Express, McGraw-Hill Book Publishers, Chester Crozer Cancer Center, Philadelphia City Hall The Philadelphia Sketch Club, Photo Review, Photographers Forum magazine and so on...It is my passion and I hope to continue to create work for another 30 years.

Michelle Martello

When I first got into digital photography in 2006, it was all about the garden for me. I loved photographing the blooms and bugs and birds – that was my photography happy place. But eventually, I craved a little less of the order of a garden, and a bit more of the chaos of nature. Not having grown up in New Jersey, I wasn’t aware of the extent of the Pinelands until recently, and I certainly did not appreciate its beauty until I started photographing it a few years ago. I love that the Pinelands are constantly changing and that each season, and even every hour of the day, brings new opportunities to create images that tell the Pinelands’ story. I am not a morning person, but felt I was missing out by limiting my time in the Pinelands to just late day. So I signed up for a sunrise photography workshop in a Pinelands preserve and really saw the true magic of the Pinelands that day. My goal was to create an image that captured at least a fraction of the magic of that morning, and I am thrilled to be able to share my image – and that magic - with all the viewers of this exhibit.

Patricia Migliore

My journey in photography began in 1970 when I first picked up a camera to do the yearbook photos at the American School in Israel where I was attending. I was so hooked that I soon took my first class in a darkroom at the University of Haifa. The infatuation never left me and carried on to a career after getting a degree in commercial photography. In the late 1970s and through the 1980s, I was a staff photographer for Prudential Insurance in Newark NJ, doing executive portraits, conference coverage, annual reports, large format negative retouching, and photos for their in-house publications. From the early 90s to the present, I’ve worked as a freelancer, covering conferences, doing portraits, covering religious ceremonies, doing website photos for businesses, and headshots for professionals. As I slowly phase out of my working years, I am getting out to shoot more for myself, which is bringing me right back to the infatuation I first found. The challenge I find that photography presents to me never changes since the art and technology are constantly evolving. In the past year since having an image placed in the PPA exhibition, I have begun to shoot wildlife which requires a whole different set of photographic challenges from landscape photography. The diversity of skills needed in photography. echoes

the diversity of the Pinelands in its ecology, light, and scenery. This is the reason the Pinelands is my favorite place in New Jersey to explore with my camera.

Mollie Milne

My name is Mollie Milne, I am a travel and point of view photographer located in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. The Pine Barrens have been not only been part of my family roots and childhood, but my home for 25 years. This land carries some of the most nostalgic times of my life and holds stories and memories of my most valuable people, places, and things. I use photography as an outlet while grieving the loss of loved ones and to share my unique story. I hope to inspire other people to find things they love most in places that can teach them more about themselves. Finding a place of sanctuary and security is essential for all of us. Mine happens to be in a familiar place that many others are lucky enough to also call “home”. Upon my independent travels I always feel safe knowing I am beneath the pines and have the comfort of home everywhere I go because of them. My story is my inspiration and my photographs have allowed me to pause my most cherished experiences and memories. I am the things I love most about the people who are gone and proud to be a part of the people in the pines.

Lita Kishbaugh

My name is Lita Kishbaugh. I recently relocated to the New Jersey shore area from Pennsylvania. I am so honored to have several of my images accepted for the Pinelands Annual Juried Photographic Exhibition 2023. Thank you for this opportunity.

My biggest influence in my photography journey was my dad. As a youngster, I came across some old photographs that my dad had taken and I was so enamored with his talent that I felt drawn to the art of photography. That was the beginning of my photographic journey which has evolved into my personal Passion! Although I have been photographing for many years now, most recently I have been honing my wildlife and birding skills along the shores and pinelands of New Jersey. I find myself with an abundance of opportunities here in New Jersey and can't wait to see what is in store for me! I have learned so much through quiet patience, respect, and observation of wildlife in their natural habitat. This is an experience of a lifetime for me! In the past few years I have had the opportunity to have my work displayed in the Allentown Art Museum in Allentown, PA for competition and I have received awards in that competition. I have had work accepted and honored in PSA through my affiliation with the Lehigh Valley Photography Club. And, on the local level, I have had work recognized in several contests. I've also joined several on line photography groups to which I have also been recognized on many occasions. I am an active member of 3 photography clubs - Lehigh Valley Photography Club, Ocean County Camera Club and Hillcrest Camera Club. The clubs that I am a part of help me with my pursuit to improve my skills as a photographer. Through my affiliation with these clubs, I have met some wonderful people with like interests and made some lifelong friendships. Photography has enriched my life in so many ways and will continue to do so for a very long time.

Susan Rogozinski

Susan Rogozinski is a tired middle-aged female with an odd sense of humor and a complete addiction for taking ridiculous amounts of cellphone photos in her favorite part of the Pinelands. The Heislerville area of the Delaware Bayshore is one of her absolute favorite places for photographs, and it's pretty awesome that it's part of the Pinelands National Reserve. It doesn't

matter if she heads out for sunset to the same spot multiple times in a week... with the ever-amazing skies over areas like Matt's Landing, Thompson Beach, and East Point Lighthouse, there's a new show every night. You can find her on Instagram @suerogo0624 to check out a little more of her love for the Pinelands, captured along the state's southern bayshore.

Leslie Fazio Rothermal

Leslie developed a great love of art and nature while growing up in New Jersey. Torn between those two possible areas of study when entering college, she eventually decided to major in Fine Arts, where she received her first introduction to photography, and fell in love with the medium. In her early days of photography, Leslie spent long hours in the darkroom developing photos captured on film by her first SLR camera, a Nikon F-1. She later transitioned to digital photography, which provided her with the best of both worlds - the taking and editing of photos. Leslie's passion for photography has allowed her to combine her lifelong love of art and nature. She especially loves photographing in the New Jersey Pinelands, where the diverse and ever-changing topography of wetlands, forests, and rivers - and the wide variety of animals, plants and insects that live therein - offer innumerable opportunities for creating visually beautiful and provocative wildlife and landscape photos.

Lynn Padwee

I am a Jersey Girl, having lived in New Jersey all of my life. My love of nature has stimulated my interest in photographing wildlife and landscapes. I strive to combine my love of nature and my passion for travel through strikingly colorful photographs of the places I visit and the flora and fauna I capture with my lens. I have been fortunate to travel to many exotic areas of the globe just to photograph the wildlife and natural beauty, but one of my favorite places to photograph is in the NJ Pinelands. The Pinelands have it all: beautiful cedar forests, incredible sunrises and sunsets, amazing landscapes, and wonderful wildlife. What more can a photographer ask for? I now have an even deeper love and appreciation for nature and the world around me. I realize just how fragile our environment is and how we must respect, protect and treasure it. I find it sad to think that one day these beautiful natural habitats and their wildlife may be gone forever due to man-made destruction and climate change.

TJ Seningen

I came to photography through my love for nature and the outdoors. I am a Philadelphia middle school science teacher, so at the onset, it was a science project for me. My photography journey started simply documenting carnivorous plants in situ with my phone. My eye developed out of a desire for a better understanding of the mini ecosystems these plants can be found in. I have long felt a call from the Pinelands. I was a carnivorous plants enthusiast from a young age, and learned from books on my grandfather's shelves that they can be found in the Pines. Beyond that, for much of my life, the pines were a fly-by magical place that was between Philadelphia and our vacation down the shore. Later in life I started going bike camping at Goshen Pond, and exploring the pines by bike. It's amazing what you miss at those speeds. Eventually an injury forces me to slow down. The beauty of the pines pops when going at a steady hiking or kayaking pace. Most weekends, and almost any summer day I can be found exploring the Pinelands, in a deep squat looking at a plant, fungi, or critter that caught my eye, and maybe by camera.

Dave Shaffer

I do not consider myself an artist, God is the artist. Photography allows me to slow down, discover new locations, and immerse myself in the solitude and beauty of nature. For me it's all about enjoying the experience, feeling the elements and if I'm lucky, returning home with a photo that inspires others to do the same. Photography allows me to enjoy our surroundings and appreciate the beauty that is all around us. Life can be too busy and hectic to allow us to observe the natural wonder that is around us every day. Landscape photography is the medium that allows me to discover new places and share the incredible beauty of our world with others. Like most landscape photographers I began my journey photographing the iconic locations along the beach, national parks and numerous waterfalls. As my skill level improved, I began searching for the off-beat locations to challenge my ability to see and compose a worthy photograph. I began to see things differently allowing me to find compositions and anticipate the light within more chaotic locations. I've recently chosen to focus on the NJ Pines Barrens since they pose a significantly greater challenge. Waking up at zero dark-thirty to drive an unpaved sand road to an undiscovered location will never grow old. My only hope is that I can create photos that are worthy of the splendor within the NJ Pine Barrens.

Loring Slivinski

The earth is the point of origin for each and every one of us. It is where our corporeal bodies will return when we head off to whatever is or isn't next. For me, this endows the earth, sea, and sky with deep spiritual significance. I feel most calm and happy when surrounded by more trees than light posts. Sharing the joy nature brings me helps me to feel connected to the bigger picture, to my fellow humans, and less influenced by the madness that is our day-to-day lives. To that end, I create. I also make art for ME. Nature & art have been my kitty litter on the ice of life. Creating works of art, immersing myself in nature, or immersing myself in other people's art or music has kept me sane during times of trouble and stress. Having grown up the daughter of an avid photographer, the urge to capture beauty on "film" is ingrained in my DNA. The Pine Barrens offers a cornucopia of choices— flora and fauna and fungi, oh my! Not to mention the bodies of life-affirming water and sacred forests. My hard drives groan under the weight of the many tens of thousands of photos I've taken. When I have the chance to share a photo, all the other photos cheer. I must appease them. I share a home in South Jersey with my husband, 2 old dogs, 5 silly cats, and a very loud macaw.

Chris Vaccaro

I have always been fascinated with the stars, and ever since taking up photography I've loved to photograph the night sky. I wanted to shoot the Milky Way in New Jersey to show people that New Jersey isn't just a New York City/Philadelphia suburb, and that there are still places in the Pinelands where light pollution is lower and you can still see the night sky. The Pinelands of New Jersey has many photogenic places, including Franklin Parker Preserve where this photo was taken, where the night sky is still visible and you can still photograph the Milky Way. Whether it is the scenery, the people, or the night sky, the Pinelands has beauty to go around, right in the heart of southern New Jersey.

Patricia S. Worley

Patricia S. Worley is a nature photographer, workshop instructor, presenter and a STROBE

featured artist. At any given time, her work can be seen in libraries, office buildings, art galleries and healthcare facilities. Pat's passion is in teaching photography. She gives group and private lessons in Photoshop and the fundamentals of photography; and leads small groups on photography workshops to exciting destinations across the country and Africa through her company Twilight Blue Photography, LLC. She believes the experience of photography is as important as the end result. Primarily a nature and wildlife photographer, Pat travels extensively throughout the United States, Africa, and Europe capturing award-winning images of the people she meets and places she goes. She has visited 5 continents and 50 countries, including extended month-long visits to Tanzania, Rwanda, and South Africa. As result, she has more than 15 solo and small group exhibits to her name and has curated over 20 additional exhibitions since 2010. Her work hangs in various AtlantiCare locations, Penn Presbyterian for Advanced Care, Medford Lakes Municipal Offices, 541 Barbershop and private collections. Her work is for sale at the Medford Arts Center, Medford Lakes Colony, The Painted Turtle, and the largest selection is found on her website. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications, specializing in film, television, and photography from Seton Hall University. Pat's vision is simple. Take the ordinary and make it extraordinary.