

# 18TH APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

MARCH 5, 2021 - JUNE 5, 2021

MEZZANINE GALLERY



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# JURORS



**Shauna Caldwell**

Shauna Caldwell is an artist from Boone, NC. She received BFAs in both Studio Art and Art education. In addition to working as assistant director of Arts Education and Outreach for the Turchin Center for Visual Arts and the Office of Arts and Cultural Programs at Appalachian State University, she is currently pursuing an MA in Appalachian studies and a graduate certificate in non-profit administration. Her roots in Appalachia and relationship with the environment shape her creative work.



**Eric Heistand**

Eric Heistand is a visual storyteller with a love for capturing redemptive moments and unlikely heroes. An outdoor enthusiast, Eric's photography began as an extension of chronicling his adventures on rock walls and ski slopes. Nimble movement over mountainous terrain has shaped Eric's embrace of a "fast and light" photography ethic. Eric moved from the Colorado Rockies to the Appalachians 12 years ago. He has grown to love the misty mountains of North Carolina. "Don't be fooled by their smaller size, compared to other great mountain ranges," says Eric. "These mountains easily hide beautiful treasures within their dense and complex canopy. A friendship with a local can open up secret passages and vistas that aren't marked on any map."

# CATEGORIES AND AWARDS

## **Best in Show**

\$1,000 furnished through proceeds and sponsor contributions. Once the exhibition is installed our panel of judges returns to the gallery to name one image as Best in Show. The Best in Show image is selected as the winning image from each of the other competition categories.

## **People's Choice**

\$250 cash award provided by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and a camera from Nikon Professional Services. The public was given the opportunity to view all images selected for the exhibition online and vote for their favorite pick for the People's Choice Award.

## **Blue Ridge Parkway**

In this difficult year, everyone has been impacted by COVID-19. In the face of fear and uncertainty, many have sought refuge in the country's natural places, where open spaces allow for natural social distancing. The Blue Ridge Parkway offers countless locations where visitors can escape life's stresses and immerse themselves in beautiful Appalachian scenery. Photographers should submit images that capture scenes of the Parkway's use as a refuge of escape into the peaceful open spaces of the Appalachians.

The the photographer of the winning image in this category will receive a \$250 cash award, provided by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and a camera from Nikon Professional Services.

## **Adventure**

Imagery depicting mountain sports such as climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding, etc. The winner will receive a \$250 gift certificate from the Mast General Store.

## **Culture**

Imagery depicting the people, their customs, traditions, architecture and ways of life unique to the Southern Appalachian region. The winner will receive a \$250 gift certificate from the Mast General Store.

## **Our Ecological Footprint**

Imagery documenting environmental concerns in Central and Southern Appalachia. Photographers submitting images to this category should include a paragraph explaining where the image was taken and the environmental impact being illustrated. The winner receives \$250 from Appalachian Voices and a \$250 gift certificate from the Mast General Store.

## **Flora / Fauna**

Imagery of plants and animals common to the Southern Appalachians. The winner will receive a \$250 gift certificate from the Mast General Store.

## **Landscape**

Scenic imagery capturing the rich diversity and natural beauty of the Southern Appalachian region. The winner will receive a \$250 gift certificate from the Mast General Store.



# ADVENTURE

## Category Winner



**Lynn Willis**

*Almost Heaven West Virginia*, 2018  
Adventure

The White Room.





**Mary Presson Roberts**  
*Reedy River Falls Morning, 2020*  
Adventure

One morning in Greenville, SC we watched as two kayakers made the plunge down the falls.



## **Alicia Green**

*The Zionville Skateboard Queen, 2020*  
Adventure

Not many women are building skateboard ramps, but this one is doing the work just down the road from the Tennessee line.





**Andi Gelsthorpe**  
*To Be 9 Years Old, 2020*  
Adventure

After riding the Virginia Creeper Trail into Damascus, my son decided to relax in Laurel Creek for a while.



**Jason Frye**  
*Under the Stars*, 2019  
Adventure

Grassy Ridge, near the NC/TN border, is a wonderful day hike, but the adventure continues at night. Everything is a little quieter, your senses are heightened and if the sky is clear, the stars really put on a show.



**John Rabb**  
*Take Me Away*, 2020  
Adventure

You can't resist a plunge into the gorge on a hot summer day.





## **Lynn Willis**

*Linville Gorge Rock Climb*, 2014  
Adventure

Big wall, small climber.



**Lynn Willis**

*Black Forest Trail, Rocky Knob, 2017*

Adventure

Rocky Knob mountain biking.





## **Lynn Willis**

*Buckeye Knob, V9 Boulder, 2018*  
Adventure

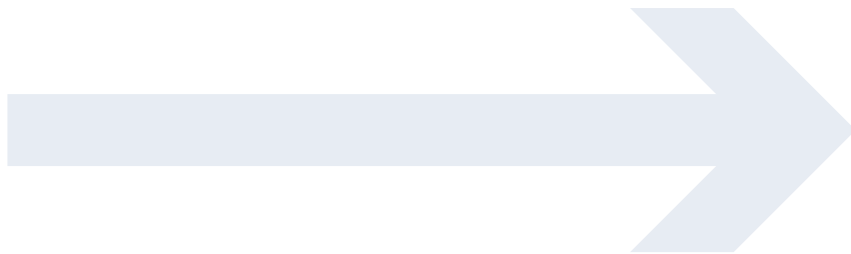
Bouldering Buckeye Knob.



**Michael Kaal**  
*Falling for Trout*, 2020  
Adventure

This is a self portrait of me fishing beneath Laurel Falls. Fishing for me has always been an adventure between nature and the unknown.

# BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY





## Category Winner



**Gina Knox**  
*Better Together*, 2020  
BRP Journey

The women of Black Girls Hike  
Richmond, Virginia come together to  
escape and hike to Apple Orchard Falls.



**Andi Gelsthorpe**  
*MP 264.4, 2020*  
BRP Journey

Running up the hill to catch the beginning of golden hour, he quickly passed me by.





## **Andi Gelsthorpe**

*Sunset Bike Ride at the Viaduct, 2020*

BRP Journey

The BRP was closed to vehicular traffic at the beginning of the pandemic. Foot traffic and bicyclists were still welcome. We took advantage of this opportunity to take a family bike ride to the Viaduct to watch the sunset.



## **Lonnie Webster**

*Raven's Rock, Serenade*, 2020  
BRP Journey

John Winger, his children and dog can often be found near sunset playing music together, watching the sunset and eating watermelon, somewhere along the Blue Ridge Parkway.



**Mark Hazelton**  
*Doughton Gold*, 2019  
BRP Journey

Doughton Park is the largest recreation area the National Park Service manages on the Blue Ridge Parkway, thus making it a great place for natural social distancing.





## **Sam Brown**

*Mindful Details of the Blue  
Ridge Parkway, 2020*  
BRP Journey

A small bridge spanning a hidden creek catches my eye in the thicket. The unmistakable scent of a black bear lingers around me and I keep an eye to the woods as I set-up, shoot and break down my gear. As I cross the bridge to the other side, a crayfish shell breaks under my foot and I jump out of my skin. I hope the raccoon had a nice lunch. Taken on the Cold Prong Creek Trail.

## Special Jury Award



**Skip Sickler**  
*Evening Show*, 2018  
BRP Journey

This elderly couple brought their own chairs to watch the sunset from a secluded overlook.



## Special Jury Award



**Steven McBride**  
*In Flight*, 2020  
BRP Journey

Craggy Gardens, bird in flight through  
clearing fog.



**Terri Campbell**  
*Escape Route*, 2020  
BRP Journey

The bridge at Wilson Creek on the Tanawha Trail. Desolate on this very rainy day, the lines leading to the trail beckoned me to cross and explore the wilds beyond the bridge.



# CULTURE

## Category Winner



**Alicia Green**  
*Carport Ollie*, 2020  
Culture

When the sun goes down in Zionville, to the carport she goes to practice flip tricks.



## **Houck Medford**

*How to Get to Merlefest*, 2020  
Culture

Bea may not make it to Carnegie Hall, but there is a good chance she will make it to Merlefest.



## Best In Show



**Mike Baker**  
*End Times*, 2020  
Culture

A small church congregation near Squire, West Virginia closes during the 2020 pandemic.



## **Michelle Harless**

*Widow's Might*, 2019

Culture

This photo is of my mother, a widow, sitting in an old country church. It reminded me of the Bible story of the widow who gave all she had to give. My mother continues to give her strength to her children and grandchildren every day, even in her grief.

## Special Jury Award



### **Sam Brown**

*A Successful Firing Self Portrait*, 2020  
Culture

Here, my friend Nick and I kneel in front of our still warm pots after unloading them from his kiln. The firing consisted of 3 days of constantly attending the kiln and stuffing it full of wood salvaged after the local power companies cut down trees along the Blue Ridge Parkway. We are grateful to be able to use someone else's waste to fuel our art.





**Scott Brown**

*Welcome to the Jungle Mr. Walking Stick,*  
2020  
Culture

My son Logan enjoying a  
walking stick insect in his  
hair.





## **Steven Tweed**

*The Healing Promise*, 2020

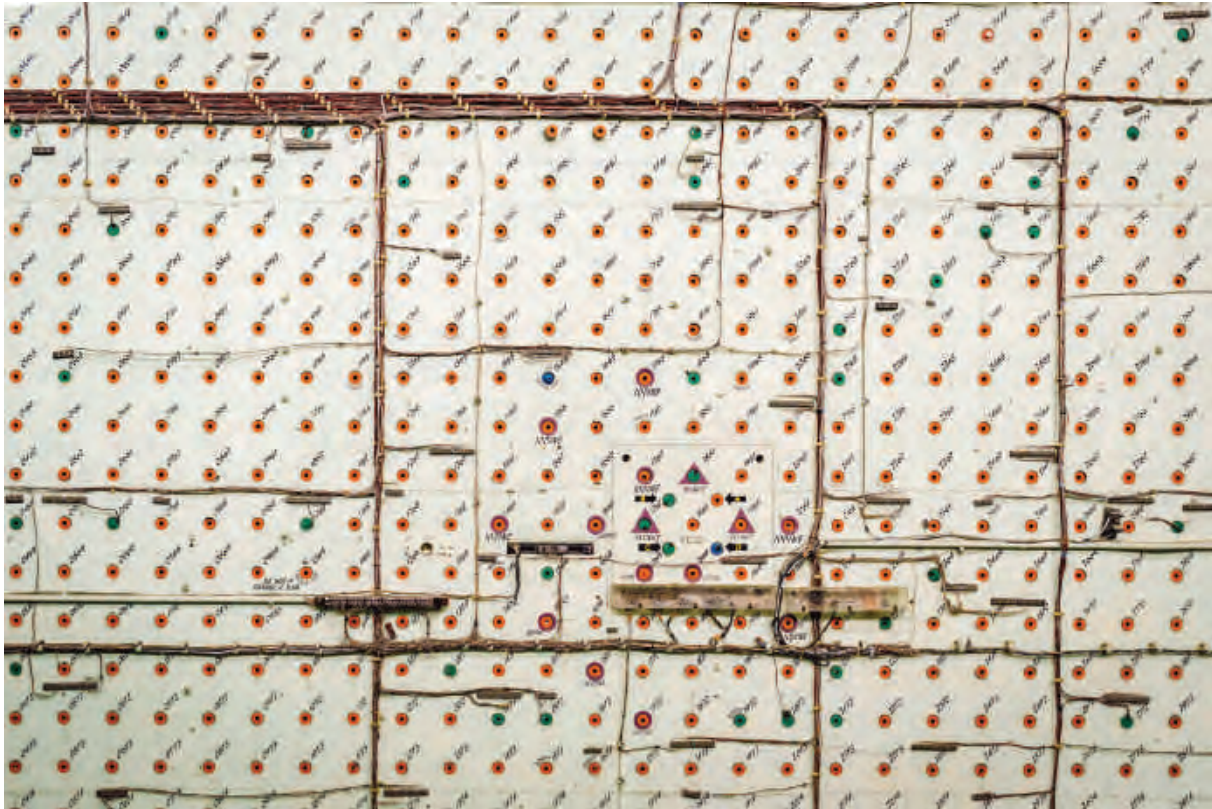
Culture

Built during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, the abandoned Whiterock Hospital with a rainbow over it in Madison County stands as a reminder that with due diligence and each other's help, we too can get through Covid-19, the pandemic of our time.



# Our Ecological Footprint

## Category Winner



**Jodie Castellani**  
*The Graphite Reactor*, 2019  
Our Ecological Footprint

The Graphite Reactor, once the focal point of the top secret Manhattan Project, is now open for tourists to learn WWII history of the making of the atomic bomb in Oak Ridge, TN.





## **Michael Kaal**

*Texico Spot*, 2020

Our Ecological Footprint

I photographed this antique Texico sign at night on the Watauga river in Elizabethton, TN. It's parked next to an abandoned gas station where a train track used to cross. It's a reminder of our past and development of this area.





## **Sam Brown**

*Cherry on Top*, 2020

Our Ecological Footprint

I take a right off of the gravel road I grew up on, past the once quiet field, which is now a parking lot complete with a metal box full of plastic whatnots. Oh look, a new neighbor. A giant Mud Pie with a Cherry on Top. Waste runoff and erosion is a cheery welcome for the steel structures to come. It will be a fine place to lock away all the things we don't care about anymore.

## Special Jury Award



### **Skip Sickler**

*Comet Neowise and Sugar Top, 2020*

Our Ecological Footprint

Comet Neowise cruises the night sky over Grandfather Mountain. However, light pollution from nearby communities makes seeing the comet and stars more challenging. There are very few places where one can escape the human interference caused by artificial lights.

# FLORA AND FAUNA





## Category Winner



**Chris Almerini**  
*Roan Mountain Fantasy*, 2020  
Flora and Fauna

Into the forest.



**Jason Lewis**  
*The Challenge*, 2018  
Flora and Fauna

Every fall brings the rut, the mating season of the elk, and with it a struggle for dominance. These bull elk are sparring at dawn on a misty early fall day.



## Katie Richard

*Foraging in Western North Carolina,  
2020*

## Flora and Fauna

A collection of items foraged in the mountains of Western North Carolina.





## **Kevin Balling**

*Heron*, 2019

Flora and Fauna

Location: Blowing Rock, NC. Shot with a 1979 projector lens. The lens was removed from a Soviet 35mm slide film projector, and adapted to a mirrorless digital camera.



**Maggie Flanigan**  
*Known Specimen*, 2020  
Flora and Fauna

Archival Print from 4x5 paper negative.



**Michelle Harless**  
*Playtime for the Trio*, 2019  
Flora and Fauna

These three bear cubs enjoyed some springtime play while the mother bear slept below the tree.





**Mike Baker**

*Abandoned Home*, 2015  
Flora and Fauna

A once crowded and busy hornet nest,  
abandoned by the queen, now hangs  
empty in the forest.





**Pam Conley**  
*Floating*, 2020  
Flora and Fauna

There's something so peaceful about floating in a boat on a calm lake in the fall, which is what I was doing when I captured this leaf floating next to me.



**Pam Conley**  
*Light in Darkness*, 2020  
Flora and Fauna

I was walking around a wetland area as the sun was going down, when the light on this cattail appeared illuminated like a torch.



**Regina Shinall**  
*Southern Stargazers*, 2020  
Flora and Fauna

One of the most beautiful flowers in our area is the Stargazer Lily. It is even more beautiful in black and white.



**Steven Young**  
*Mad Herd Bull*, 2020  
Flora and Fauna

This herd bull elk won a battle for his girls, then took out a little more stress on the closest patch of greens.



# LANDSCAPE



## Category Winner



### **Terri Campbell**

*In Darkness Comes Light*, 2020  
Landscape

I shoot this location frequently, and had gone up for sunset on this day. This mountain is historically known for changing a photographer's plans and certainly had different plans for us this evening. In lieu of a sunset, this storm came in from the distance and put on quite a show for us.



## **Chris Almerini**

*Polar Conditions at Grandfather, 2020*

Landscape

Winter scene of Grandfather Mountain  
with an angry New Year's welcome.



**Chris Almerini**  
*Sunset Layers in Fall*, 2020  
Landscape

One last beam of sun before  
fading to night.





**Gene Smith**  
*Snowflake*, 2020  
Landscape

The beauty of a winter snow  
begins with a single snowflake.



**Grayson Martin**

*Mistifying*, 2020

Landscape

Late-afternoon fog settles over the Clinch River in the Norris Dam State Park.



**Jason Lewis**  
*Brilliant Rush*, 2018  
Landscape

The sun shines through mist rising from a rushing river on a crisp fall morning.

## People's Choice Award



**Jim Ruff**

*Moonwalk*, 2019

Landscape

This image of the full moon arising above Grandfather Mountain was shot in March 2019. I was located in the parking of the Catholic church located near Linville, NC or a distance of approximately three miles from the bridge.





**Sam Brown**

*Moody Days on the Elk River,*  
2020

Landscape

I have walked this river a  
thousand times. I'll soon walk  
it a thousand more, but this  
time I'll walk it with my child.  
They, as I, will see it as new. A  
thousand times and a  
thousand times more.



## **Skip Sickler**

*Sunset in Silence*, 2019

Landscape

Sometimes the sunset is so spectacular it takes your breath away. During such times, it is heresy to say anything at all. The appropriate response is just to enjoy the marvel of nature unfolding before your eyes. This sunset on Grandfather Mountain was one of those times.

# EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

*Click here to view Wendy Ewald's portfolio.*



I am Dolly Parton - Denise Dixon

Photography teacher, Wendy Ewald, taught her students in rural Kentucky to use cameras to make self-portraits, to tell stories, and to document their families. She says:

“I wanted them to expand their ideas about picture-making, while staying close to the people and places they felt most deeply about. I asked them to photograph themselves, their families, their animals and their community, and to think about stories they might make with photographs. When they made self-portraits, they discovered that they could be the subjects of their own photographs, and could change themselves into whatever characters they chose to create.”

**If you were in charge of the camera, what would you want a picture of yourself to look like?**

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**What is important to you and how might you include that in your self-portrait?**

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# RESOURCES

[Walk Through Video](#)

[Additional Images](#)

[Awards Presentation Video](#)

[Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition Website](#)

[Turchin Center Website](#)





THANK  
YOU

FROM THE TURCHIN CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University engages visitors from the university, community, nation and beyond in creating unique experiences through dynamic and accessible exhibition, education, outreach and collection programs. These programs inspire and support a lifelong engagement with the visual arts and create opportunities for participants to learn more about themselves and the world around them.

SHARE YOUR WORK WITH US AT #TCVAATHOME !

