

# *A WEST VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION*

**June 20, 1863 to June 20, 2013**

**A PHOTO JOURNEY THROUGH WEST VIRGINIA**



**Published by:**

**The Buckhannon Upshur Camera Club**





**Independence Hall, Wheeling**



**West Virginia State Capitol, Charleston**

# Introduction

Dear readers:

On June 20, 1863, West Virginia gained admission to the Union as the country's 35th state. This year we celebrate her sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup>) birthday. Ours is the only state to form by seceding from a Confederate state. In the mid-1800's, there was a huge schism between the slave-holding plantation owners who dominated the state of Virginia at that time and the rugged, self sufficient people in the western counties. When the state of Virginia joined the confederacy in 1861, the western counties remained loyal to the union.

In an early convention in Wheeling, there was a proposal to form a new State of Kanawha. However, when the state constitution was finalized, we became the State of West Virginia. That officially took place on June 20, 1863, when the state met President Lincoln's requirement that the words "the gradual abolition of slavery" be added to our constitution.

The beautiful front cover photo was taken by Martin Unrue. The top photo on the inside cover, taken by Steve Shaluta, shows Independence Hall in Wheeling as it looks today. This is where delegates met to form the state. Wheeling was the state capital between 1863 and 1870 and again between 1875 and 1877 before permanently moving to Charleston. The lower inside cover photo of the Capitol was taken by Amanda Haddox.

West Virginia has been blessed with an abundance of scenic beauty, natural resources and a hardy, self reliant people, who created a wonderfully rich heritage for West Virginians to enjoy today and to preserve for future generations. We are a proud people; we love our state and our country. Therefore, government entities, local communities, and organizations across the state are celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in various activities and events that span the year.

Not to miss out on the special activity surrounding the sesquicentennial, the Buckhannon Upshur Camera Club (BUCC) decided to join in the celebration and commemoration of this historic event. We believed we could best do that through the lenses of our photographers. Each month, we publish a newsletter full of photos and updates on club activities. We decided we would commemorate the state's birthday with a special sesquicentennial edition of our newsletter. We call this our WV150 Project and we use photographs to showcase our state's natural beauty, heritage and the character of its people. We invited photographer friends far and wide to help us accomplish our goal. Forty-two photographers stepped forward to share their photos with us and you. We hope you enjoy their work and that it will inspire you to take up photography, and then to travel our country roads in search of that wow photo of a special place we call "Almost Heaven."

Happy Birthday West Virginia,

Alan E. M. Tucker and John R. Simons, BUCC WV150 Project Leaders



# Acknowledgements

The Buckhannon Upshur Camera Club is indebted to so many people who contributed to this publication. First, we thank Dan Kohlhaas of Ashburn, Virginia who designed the special newsletter format. We are grateful to the club members who supported the initiatives with their photos. We are very humbled and pleased by the wonderful photographs shared by the club's many friends across West Virginia, from several states, and as far away as England. We greatly appreciate the strong support of Ron Gaskins, President of the Charleston Camera Club and Harry White, Secretary of the Taylor County Photography Club. They communicated our need for photographs to their communities and brought many excellent photographers to our project. We are astounded and thrilled by the willingness of several professional photographers who willingly shared their work with us. Their photos were the icing on the cake. We are so thankful for the friendship of Steve Foster and Mel Stemple, who throughout this effort, steered us in the right direction when we ran into roadblocks. Finally, John and I thank our wives, Rita and Liva, as we toiled at this labor of love these past couple of months.

Here is the list of our contributing photographers: (Note: BUCC stands for Buckhannon Upshur Camera Club)

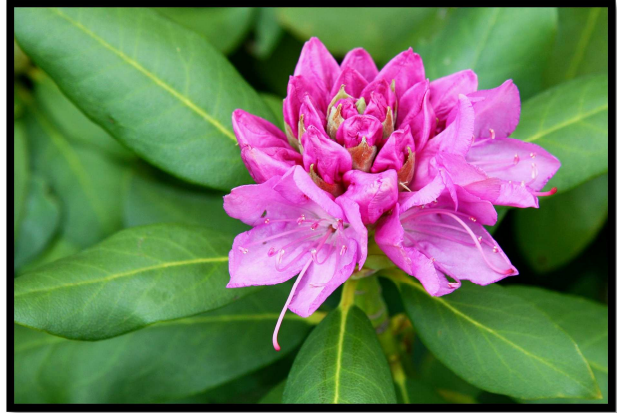
Amanda Lee Baucom, Oakboro NC, <a href="http://www.SpikeRush.com">www.SpikeRush.com</a>	Marsha Maier, Taylor County Photography Club
Joe Browning	John Mundy, BUCC Member
Ron Buckton, BUCC Member	Dave Orndorff, BUCC Member
Tina Bulka, Bridgeport WV	Mary Orndorff, BUCC Member
Jim Clark, <a href="http://www.jimclarkphoto.com">www.jimclarkphoto.com</a>	Mark Poore, Mark Poore Photography
Mary E. Cameron, Horner WV	Bonne Riffle, BUCC Member
Janet Thompson Davis, Buckhannon WV	Steve Shaluta, St. Albans WV, <a href="http://www.steveshaluta.com">www.steveshaluta.com</a>
Tom Dean, Charleston CC, <a href="http://tdeanphotography.com">tdeanphotography.com</a>	John Simons, BUCC Member
Frank Eskew, BUCC Member	Alecia Sirk, Top of West Virginia CVB
Dan Friend, Morgantown, <a href="http://dan-friend.artistwebsites.com">dan-friend.artistwebsites.com</a>	Robbie Skinner, Buckhannon WV
Ron Gaskins, Charleston CC, <a href="http://www.wvfinephotography.com">www.wvfinephotography.com</a>	Jozette Spacht, <a href="http://www.facebook.com/JozettesDigitalStrokes">www.facebook.com/JozettesDigitalStrokes</a>
Dennis Govini, Vienna VA	Clayton Spangler, <a href="http://www.spanglerstudio.com">www.spanglerstudio.com</a>
Amanda Haddox, Charleston CC, <a href="http://www.In-My-Minds-Eye.com">www.In-My-Minds-Eye.com</a>	Melodie Stemple, Buckhannon WV
Jessica Hall, Charleston WV & Gaspar Explorations	Barry Taylor, England
Lisa Hechesky, Charleston CC, <a href="http://www.creativelisaphotography.com">www.creativelisaphotography.com</a>	Diana Taylor, England
Dick Helper, Morgantown WV	Melissa Toothman, BUCC Member
Joan Justice, Springfield OH, Taylor County Photography Club	Alan Tucker, BUCC Member
Lisa Lagana, Morgantown Photography Club	Liva Tucker, Buckhannon WV
Bill and Linda Lane, VA, <a href="http://www.lanephotoworkshops.com">www.lanephotoworkshops.com</a>	Martin Unrue, Ravenswood WV, <a href="http://www.martinunrue.com">www.martinunrue.com</a>
Suzie Legg, Wallback WV	Andrew Yianne, <a href="http://www.yiannephotography.com">www.yiannephotography.com</a>
Alisa Mauk Lively, Buckhannon WV	

Lastly, we extend our appreciation to our reviewers for their diligent work: Club members – Mary Cameron, Laura Meese, and Mary Orndorff; and friends of BUCC – Debbie Bush, Linda Hicks, Mel Stemple, Liva Tucker, and Becky Williams. If we inadvertently overlooked anyone, we extend our apologies.



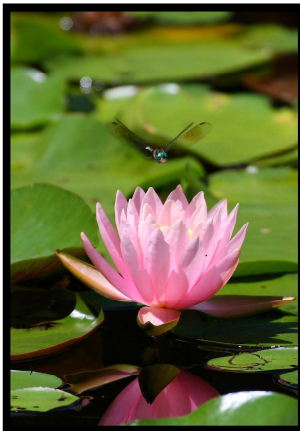


**Rhododendron** (D. Govini)

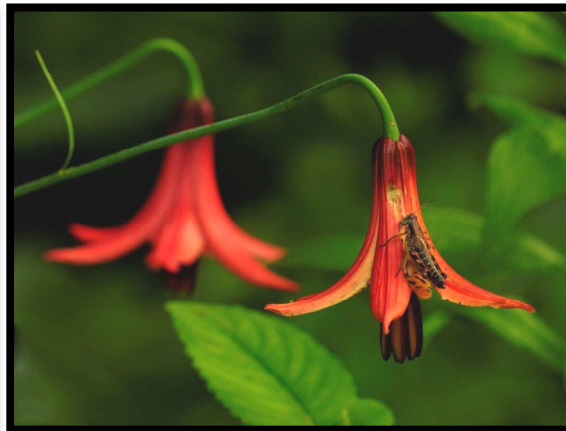


**The State Flower** (J. Simons)

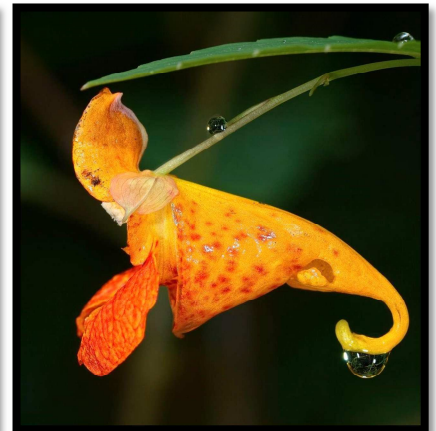
"Wonderful West Virginia Wildflowers" magnify the splendor of our landscapes. Wild Rhododendrons and laurel abound in our mountains, which take visitors by surprise. Photographers make special trips to capture their beauty in late spring and early summer.



**Water Lily** (A. Haddox)



**Breakfast (Canada Lily)** (The Lanes)

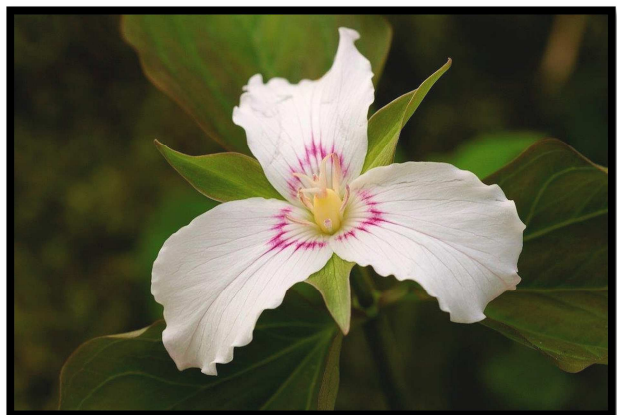


**Spotted Jewel Weed** (J. Clark)

WV is second only to the Great Smokey's in wildflowers. From early spring to late fall, new flowers emerge to enhance the season. Our roadsides, hillsides, mountaintops and river banks are adorned with wildflowers that attract a variety of butterflies and birds year round.



**White Trillium** (J. Simons)



**Painted Trillium** (The Lanes)



**Happy 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday West Virginia**

Throughout West Virginia, local communities celebrated the "Sesquicentennial" in style. The biggest celebration naturally took place at the Capitol, where there was a three day gala on the Capitol grounds. There were many events, displays and things for families to see and do. Each day's activity was capped off with an amazing 3D movie about WV's statehood followed by a dazzling fireworks show. We are pleased to close our commemoration of our great state by displaying a few images from its grand birthday celebration. We truly hope each reader has enjoyed this photographic journey across the state and through its history. We hope it inspires you to go buy a good camera and to travel to the many locations depicted in this commemoration. Also, join your local camera club. Do these things and your life will be enriched!



(J. Simons)



(A. Tucker)



(J. Simons)



(A. Tucker)



(J. Simons)



(A. Tucker)