

President's Corner: Dear BUCC members and friends of the club, "Happy New Year." We have been blessed with another year to practice our wonderful hobby, and in some cases our vocation of photography. I hope that 2015 will bring you many new locations to shoot and to grow your skill level, and that you'll continue to share some of your work with our readers. Wow, we have gone national in readership scope. Thanks to all who helped us achieve something a few said couldn't be done. To our members, I ask you to help me, our officers and project leaders to make 2015 another great year for the club. I'd like to see if we can add at least 15 new members. We've got a great program year planned and it will be successful if we can get more members to pitch in. I am confident you will. To our "friends," we continue to be indebted to you for your great support last year and we hope you'll continue that support in 2015. This month we feature the "Best of 2014" along with a few other topics. We hope you enjoy it. Carrie

Newsletter Features: This month's edition includes several features. We begin with a 2014 BUCC Year in Review, which will include photos from our December club trip to Prickett's Fort. This month's header is a panorama of the fort. We then introduce you to Jozette Spacht in our monthly feature on one of our WV150 book contributors of the month. Next we present the "Best of 2014" showcase, which includes photos that earned ribbons or awards last year. We close the newsletter with photos from an enjoyable workshop put on by our friends Ron Gaskins and Amanda Haddox at the Jenny Wiley State Park in Kentucky. It too has wild elk.

Below is our cover photo from the "Best in 2014" submittals. It was taken by Harlan Humphrey, one of our newest friends who lives in South Dakota. His "Bull Elk" photo was taken at Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota and earned first place in the N4C Camera Club's black and white competition. Congratulations Harlan. The "Best of 2014" feature starts on page 11.



Bull Elk – Harlan Humphrey

Upcoming 2015 Newsletter Special Feature Themes:

- February – Old and Abandoned – **Deadline** - January 21
- March – Civil War
- April – People
- May – Flowers
- June – Butterflies, dragon flies, and other insects
- July – Patriotic

Buckhannon Upshur Camera Club

c/o John Simons, PO Box 5, Adrian, WV 26210

Upcoming Club Activities & News

Next Meeting

January 22 @ 6:30 p.m. – John Simons - Photography Basics & AI
Tucker – Snow shooting overview

Remainder 2104 Program Schedule

February – Nathan Symons – Know your camera
March – Laura Meese – Hands on portrait shooting
April – TBD – Macro-photography
May – Al Tucker – Photoshop Elements
June – TBD – Know your camera for sunrise/sunset shooting
July – Picnic @ Mary Hull's with sunset shooting
August – Shooting & Processing RAW
September – Lightroom
October – Nighttime & low light photography
November – Member showcase & 2016 planning
December – Christmas party

2015 Photo of the Month Topics

January - Abstracts
February – Snow scenes
March – Doors/doorways
April – Portraits
May – Macro
June – Bridges
July – Fireworks
August – Sunrises/sunsets
September – Water
October – Barns
November – Spooky stuff
December - Pets

Upcoming Photo Trips

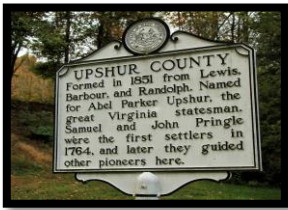
Early-Mid February – Snow scene shoot – Seneca Rocks & Germany Valley
April – Macro shoot – Holly River or Canaan Valley
June – Golden Palace, Grave Creek Mound & Old State Penitentiary
August – Summer wildflowers, location TBD
October – Babcock State Park & New River Gorge

Club Officers

President – Carrie Mills
Vice Presidents – Nathan Symons
Secretary – Mary Orndorff
Treasurer – Nancy Marks
Website/Facebook – John Simons
Newsletter Editor – Al Tucker

(304) 472-1552

bucameraclub.com



BUCC 2014 Year in Review

2014, our 10th anniversary, was a banner year for the club for many reasons: We grew the club to record membership levels adding at least one new member every month except December; We had top-notch speakers for our monthly programs and covered many interesting photography topics; We facilitated two major photography workshops for our members and other photographers in the regional area; We achieved our aggressive goal of expanding our newsletter readership across all fifty states by December 31, 2014; and, We successfully continued our traditional programs and activities. Here is a breakdown of our activities by month:

January – January was an extremely cold and snowy month that led to cancellation of our monthly meeting and potential photo trip. But good things took place that month: We (Bonne Riffle, John Simons, and Al Tucker) visited the West Virginia Veterans Nursing Facility in Clarksburg to present our WV150 books to the residents, all veterans with several from the WWII era. Mid-month, we were notified that the Charleston Gazette feature on our WV150 Book (*A West Virginia Sesquicentennial Celebration*) had been picked up by the AP and had gone national. We know of several states where it was published. With readers in 20 states, we kicked off our push to try to attract “Friends of the Club” in every state by the end of the year. Our newsletter theme for January was the “Eastern Shore” and our WV150 Book contributor of the month was Martin Unrue of Ravenswood, WV.



Presenting a WV150 book to First Sergeant Charles Pringle 30yrs, USMC



Wild Spirits – Martin Unrue

February – We completed our successful Operation Thank You project. In December, we traveled to Beckley, Kingwood and Morgantown to distribute a large number of the WV150 books to WV National Guard and WV Air Reserve members deploying to Afghanistan. On February 1, Bonne Riffle and John Simons traveled to Morgantown to present books to 93 members of the 154th Military Police Company who deployed to Afghanistan. Then on February 8, Michael Cowger, John Simons and Melissa Toothman went to Morgantown to present books to 30 returning soldiers of the 753rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company. Amanda Haddox and Ron Gaskins of the Charleston Camera Club gave an excellent presentation on “The Art of Black and White Photography” at our monthly meeting. Our newsletter theme was “Snow Scenes” and our WV150 book contributors of the month were Bill and Linda Lane. Our Friends of the Club Map remained at 20 states.

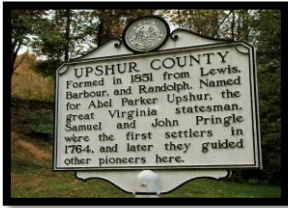


Melissa, John and Michael w/ 1st Sgt Bradley, Iris, & Krystyana Murphy



President Laura Meese (C) w/ Ron & Amanda

March - March was both good and bad for the club. The bad was Mother Nature washed out our planned photo trip to the Maple Syrup Festival. A couple, hardy members ventured out on their own only to get soaked. The good stuff includes the following: We were notified that we had taken 12th place in the “diversity” category of the Glennie Memorial Nature International Club Competition. We improved from 17th in 2013 and 27th in 2012. We could only submit 10 photos total with no more than 2 coming from a single member. Al Tucker took 2nd in the “Herons” category and a special mention in the Birds category for his second photo. Mark Poore from Snowshoe was our monthly speaker and gave an excellent presentation on “winter and action photography.” On our Friends of the Club initiative, we managed to add one state to go to 21 total. March photos are on top of page 3.



BUCC 2014 Year in Review



Snowshoe WV – Mark Poore



Morning Colors at the Tidal Basin – Dennis Govoni

April – April was a very special month as we achieved one of our major goals for the year. That being the Holly River State Park (HRSP) Workshop that was led by Ron Gaskins and Amanda Haddox of Mountaineer Photo Excursions. We had talked for several years about bringing workshops closer to home. In February, we worked with Ron and Amanda and the park staff to schedule the event which took place on April 25-27 with 20 people attending, including 10 club members (Kathy Burkhart, Dennis Govoni, Carrie Mills, James Huber, Dave and Mary Orndorff, Linda Perrine, Tim Rock, John Simons, and Al Tucker). Mike Kirk gave an informative presentation on HDR photography at our monthly meeting. Springtime was our newsletter feature and Ron Gaskins was our WV150 book contributor of the month. We added one state to go to 22 states in April. We were still inching along even though we were recruiting significant numbers of friends each month.



Holly River SP Entrance – Alan Tucker



Upper Falls – Tony Maro

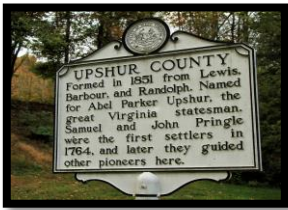
May – May brings our flagship event, the Strawberry Festival Photo Contest, which again was a huge success thanks to John Simons and the tremendous amount of support he received from our members. Tina Bulka (Bridgeport) and Allan Jones (Morgantown) were our judges and we appreciate their excellent support. Club members did well with Al Tucker taking Best in Show and a first place, Sandi Miller took a first and second as did John Simons (see the Best of 2014 feature for their photos). We were asked to photograph the Horse and Buggy Parade. Several members volunteered to help us put together a nice package for the event. We didn't have a speaker for our monthly meeting, but we reviewed many of the parade photos and Holly River workshop photos. American Heritage was the monthly newsletter theme. We finally passed the halfway mark on our goal of recruiting all 50 states as we reached 27.



Best in Show – We need more sticks! – Alan Tucker



Exhibit greeters, Ginny Dixon & Melissa Toothman



BUCC 2014 Year in Review

June – In June, President Laura handed over the gavel to President-elect Carrie after two strong years of leadership. With a 70% chance of rain forecasted, Sharon and Karl Boone, Dennis Govoni, John Simons, Zack and Melissa Toothman and Al Tucker headed to Blennerhassett Island in the Ohio River near Parkersburg for a Civil War reenactment. It turned out to be a great day with outstanding photo opportunities. We managed to recruit many new friends for the club including Laurie Lewis from California who took our group photo. Martin Unrue was our monthly speaker and gave a super presentation on nighttime photography and star trails. Our newsletter featured the Strawberry Festival photos and the Horse and Buggy Parade photos. Mark Poore was our WV150 book contributor of the month. We added 4 states to move up to 31.



Blennerhassett Island Trip Photo - Laurie Lewis



Paul Fuchs' Stagecoach - Parade Grand Champion – John Simons

July – July was a slow month with few activities except our monthly meeting. Clayton Spangler of the *Wonderful West Virginia* magazine was our speaker and shared many tips for taking quality photographs. He reviewed a number of his own and several member photos critiquing them on how to improve the images. It was well received. Our Patriotic newsletter received a large amount of positive feedback with one reader remarking “The best newsletter I have ever seen!” Our WV150 book contributor of the month was Dan Friend. The newsletter also included a photo overview of the Civil War reenactment at Blennerhassett Island. We edged up to 33 states.



Iwo Jima Memorial on the Fourth of July – Kevin Ambrose

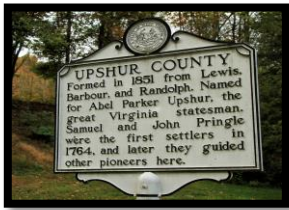


America's Finest – Amanda Hayes

August – There was no meeting nor newsletter in August. We finally figured out that August is not the month for the picnic as we canceled it for third year in a row. Amanda Hayes, Carol Meese, John Simons and Al Tucker took advantage of the Buckhannon Community Theater's invitation to shoot the dress rehearsal of the play *Oliver*. It was loads of fun. Amanda, Al and John volunteered to shoot photos for the National Wildlife Turkey Federation's Youth JAKES Day. The sponsors were very appreciative of our support.

September – This month, we put a ribbon around our goal of bringing professional, quality workshops to the local area as we hosted at Adaland Historic Mansion a 2-day seminar and workshop. Each day was a separate event. We were honored to have internationally known and acclaimed photographer Jim Clark. We had 20 people for the seminar and 9 for the field workshop. It was a great weekend. Mark Reasor from Morgantown gave an excellent presentation on *Underwater Photography* at our monthly meeting. Wildlife was the theme of the newsletter and we received so many photos, it was the focus of the entire edition. Our readership exceeded the 500 friends for the first time and we were up to 37 states. September photos are shown on page 5 as is October's.

October – Understandably, October was a busy month for the club. On Oct 4, Al, Amanda, Bonne, Larry and Melissa ventured out on a “winter-like” day on a fun photo trip to Kumbrabow State Park and Mingo Flats. On October 16, Debbie, Carrie, Bonne, and John played paparazzi at the movie *Life Inside Out* premier in Elkins. Club member, James Huber, played a movie mogul for the event, which was televised locally. Several members displayed their photos at The Market Bistro for the month and a few photos were sold. Our own Laura Meese did the program for this month's meeting and did an excellent presentation on portrait photography. Nature, except wildlife, was the theme for the newsletter and again we received a large number of submittals from our friends. Our state total is approaching our goal as 5 states remained to be recruited. In preparation for the 2015 program planning, members were asked to fill out a survey regarding their club desires for 2015.



BUCC 2014 Year in Review

September Photos:



Adaland Historic Mansion – Alan Tucker



Jim Clark Workshop @ Valley Falls – Alan Tucker

October Photos:



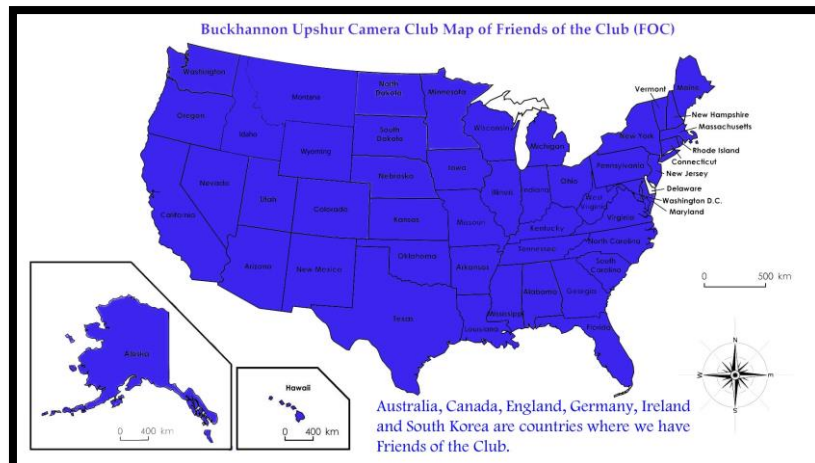
Kumbrabow State Park Photo Trip

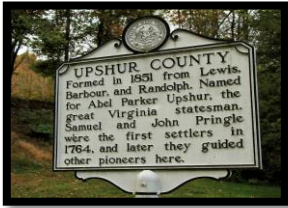


'Life Inside Out' Premier – John Simons

November – The only activity of the month was the monthly meeting at which the member showcase slide show was presented and the 2015 program year was approved, John Simons put an excellent slide show together that included members' 2014 favorite photos. The November newsletter's theme was black and white photography and Joan Justice from Springfield Ohio was our WV150 book contributor of the month. We finished the month with about 550 friends and were 3 states (Arkansas, Connecticut, and Vermont) shy of all 50 states.

December – We closed out 2014 in style with our fun Christmas party, a neat photo trip to Prickett's Fort and then on December 10, William Dixon of Vermont signed on as a friend, which added the last state to our national readership map. We are now in all 50 states and 6 countries thanks to so many people who have helped us achieve this challenging goal. Our December edition, whose focus was "autumn splendor," garnered rave reviews. We were pleased to showcase Tina Bulka of Bridgeport WV as our WV150 book contributor. Thanks to our members who pitch in to make a difference and to the unbelievable strong support of our friends, we were able to have a fantastic year. Bring on 2015!





December 6 Prickett's Fort Photo Trip



John, Nancy, Carrie, Dylan, Ashley & Mike



Staying Dry! - Carrie



Ready for winter! - Mike



Defensive Tower - Ashley



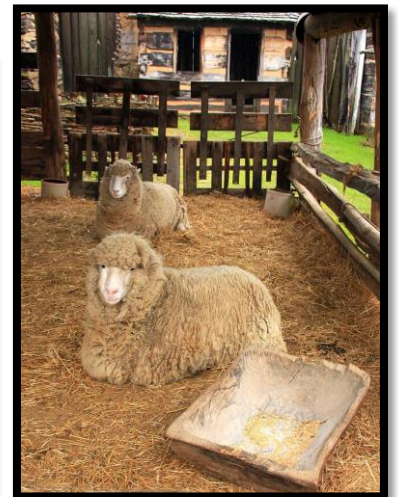
Inner Living Cabins - John



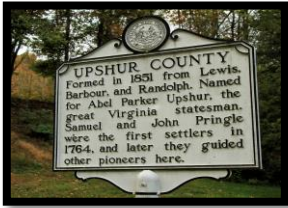
Old Mill - Ashley



Also ready for winter! - Carrie



Sheep Pen - John



December 6 Prickett's Fort Photo Trip Continued



Come on in! - Mike



Take a Seat - Mike



Window to Next Door - Mike



Primitive Display - Carrie



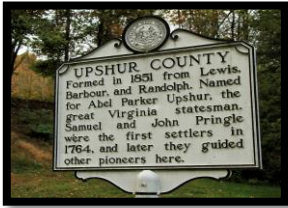
18th Century Market - John



18th Century Chandelier - Ashley

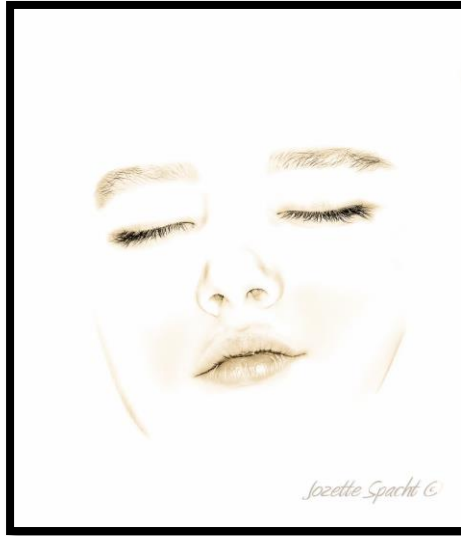


Ready for Christmas Dinner - John



WV150 Book Contributor

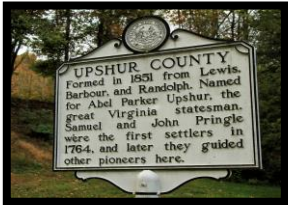
One of our most ardent supporters has been Jozette Spacht from Morgantown. She had several photos in our WV150 book and is a frequent contributor to our newsletter. We often receive great feedback on her photos. We are pleased to introduce Jozette to you. Born in 1967, she is a lifelong resident of Morgantown where she works as an office manager for a glass company. She says "Growing up, I never really had any hobbies or passions. It took me almost half my life to figure out what my passions are, and they are raising my son, River, who just turned six on December 15, and my photography. Like most moms are with their kids, River is my favorite subject."



Jozette is from a hard working coal mining family. "My dad Donald (Duck) Spacht retired from the coal mines; my mother Jo Ellen, after working at a shirt factory for many years, worked in the coal mines for awhile until she decided to stay home and rear her five children; and my older sister Chellene Morrison also worked in the coal mines for many years. I never planned on having children, but God had different plans for me. He blessed me with my son, River, five days before my 41st birthday. Before my son came along, I was living a destructive life. River changed my life for the better. I really do believe that things happen for a reason when it is needed."



"The reason I got into photography was that I decided to hire a photographer to take River's photos. While she was snapping away, I thought wow that looks easy enough, I can do that. So the more I thought about how much money I'd have to put out several times a year to have his photos taken, I thought, hey I can do this. It looks easy. So I bought my first camera, a Canon Rebel XS. Little did I know, I had no idea how to use the camera and it definitely wasn't as easy as photographers make it seem. So I took, which I thought was a beginners photography class. However, it turned out to be an advanced class. But, I did well and I loved it!" From Jozette's work, she appears to be a natural with a great eye.

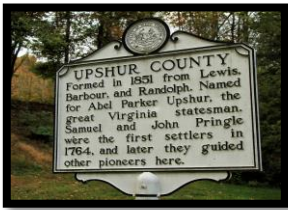


WV150 Book Contributor Continued



"The more I played with my camera, the more I learned. Eventually, I bought a better camera, which is the one I use now, a Canon 60D. I love it! I decided to take another photography class through WVU and I learned even more, that made my new found passion even stronger. In the class, I met Elisha Corley. She is now my best friend and I love her like a sister! My favorite subjects to photograph other than River, are landscapes and macros. I have to say I pick macro over landscapes, because I like to see how much detail I can actually capture with my camera, it is amazing what you cannot see with the naked eye."



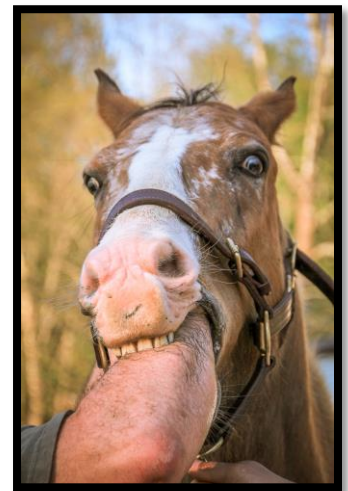


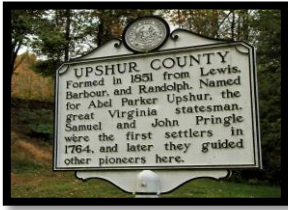
WV150 Book Contributor Continued

"The lenses I use with my Canon 60D are the Tamron 90mm macro lens, Sigma 18-250mm lens and Sigma 10-20mm wide angle lens. Even though I started into photography late in 2010, my passion for it grows. My son was my inspiration for joining the photography field and still is. As I have grown my skills, I have finally found my passion in life. I have also found that once I started into photography, I see the beauty that surrounds us much more differently. I have discovered a whole new world that my eyes had never seen before."



"For awhile, I was in a slump as I didn't have the desire to take photos. I learned I was dealing with depression and thanks to modern medicine, I am feeling and doing so much better to the point where I have regained my passion for photography. This past April, I became engaged to a wonderful man, Greg, who encourages my love for photography. Greg accepts my son, and we are looking forward to getting married this summer. I hope you enjoy my photos and thank you for allowing me to tell my story." Jozette, we love your work. It is no wonder you've had so many photos published in the Wonderful West Virginia magazine. We can't wait to see the stunning images you will capture this coming year.





Best of 2014

In this section, we feature award winning 2014 photos submitted by our members and friends. Being an award winner means the photo was either selected in a juried or judged competition or was selected for publication in a magazine. Congratulations to all those earning special recognition for their photos. On behalf of our readers, thank you for sharing your winning photos with us.



Lindsey – Richard Lewis



New Salem Baptist Church, Tams WV – Linda Treadway

Richard won *Best in Show* at Morgantown's Wine and Jazz Festival. Linda took *Best in Show* in the National Parks Service' Hidden History contest.

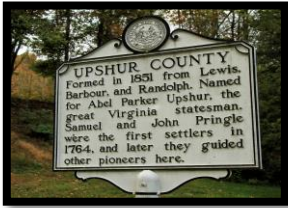


Civil War Reenactment, Blennerhassett Island, WV – Alan Tucker

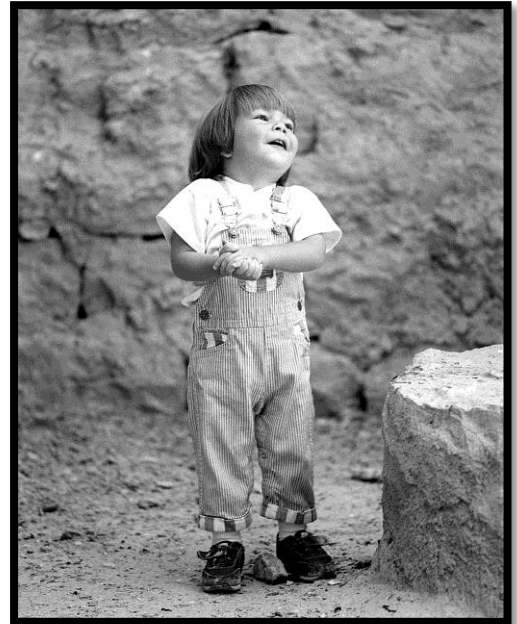
Al and Sandi's photos both won *first place* ribbons: Al at the Elkins' Forest Festival and Sandi at both Strawberry Festival and Taylor County Memorial Day photo contests.



Reflections of Old Glory – Sandra Miller



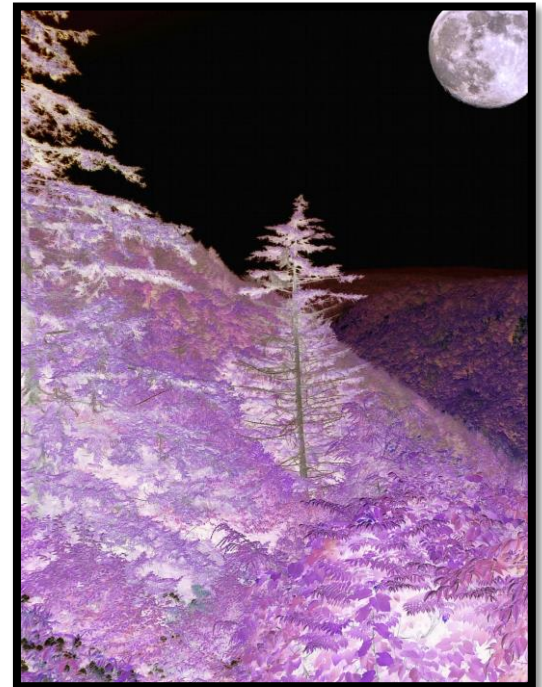
Best of 2014 Continued



Osprey with Rainbow – Harlan Humphrey

Jason - Allan Jones

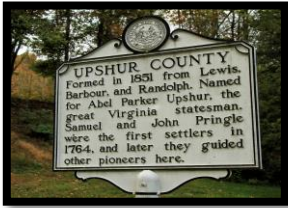
Harlan earned **first place** in N4C Camera Club’s nature competition for his “Osprey with Rainbow” photo, which was taken at Major Lake in the Black Hills. Allan took **first place** honors in the black and white category at Morgantown’s Wine and Jazz Festival.



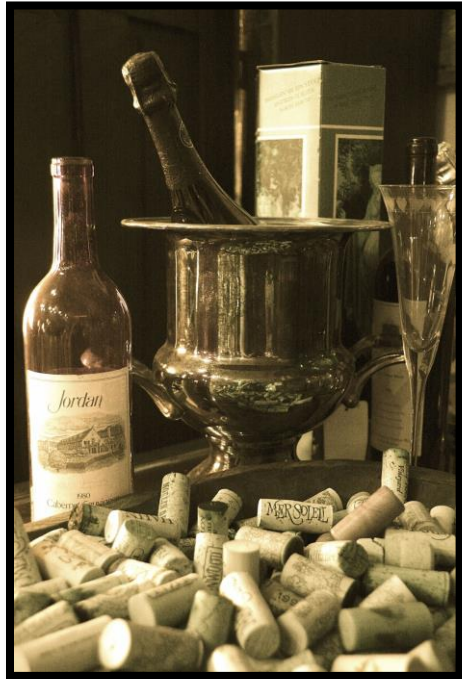
Cleared for Landing – Alan Tucker

Purple Night – John Simons

Al’s “Cleared for Landing” photo garnered **first place** ribbons in the Strawberry Festival and Taylor County Memorial Day events as well as a special recognition in the Glennie Memorial Nature International Club Competition. John earned **first place** honors for his “Purple Night” photo in the Strawberry Festival’s creative category.



Best of 2014 Continued

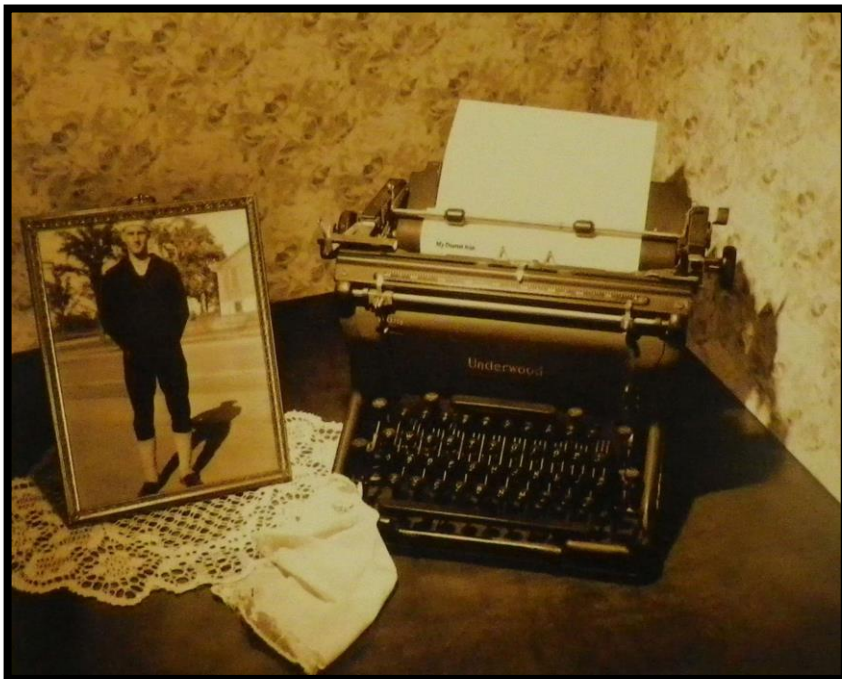


Time for a Celebration – Tina Bulka



Rebel with a Cause – Richard Lewis

Tina's "Time for a Celebration" earned a **first place** ribbon at Morgantown's Wine and Jazz Festival. Rich's "Rebel without a Cause" earned an award at the Professional Photographers of West Virginia conference last spring.

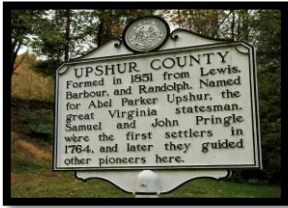


My Dearest John – Linda Treadway

Linda's vintage looking photo won **first place** honors in the monochrome category at the Strawberry Festival. Ashley's "Heart Breaker" earned a **second place** ribbon also at the Strawberry Festival contest in the "Youth People" category.



Heart Breaker – Ashley Hack



Best of 2014 Continued



The Adventure Begins – Richard Lewis

Rich's "The Adventure Begins" is another Morgantown Wine and Jazz festival award winner. Frank's moth photo took a *third* place in the "invertebrates" category at the Wildlife Society Conference in Pittsburgh. It also took the *People's Choice* honors.



© FRANK T. MUTH

Hummingbird Moth – Frank Muth

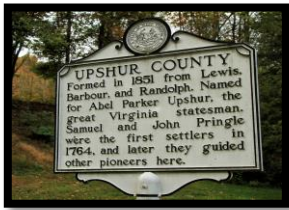


Cover Girl – Tina Bulka

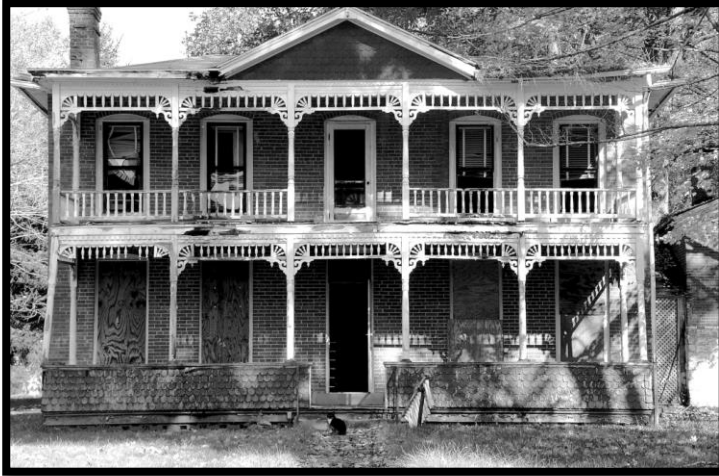
Tina's photo earned the *cover* of the summer edition of the WV Family Magazine. Rich's butterflies' photo also took an award at the Professional Photographers of WV conference last spring.



Ready for Takeoff – Richard Lewis



Best of 2014 Continued



Abandoned Beauty – Tina Bulka

Tina's photo was published in the online America Beauties magazine. Sandi earned a 2nd place ribbon at the Forest Festival.

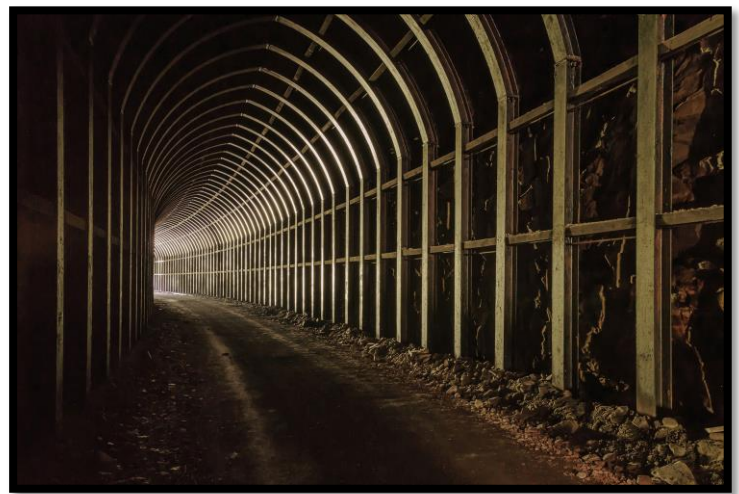


Sights from Sites Homestead – Sandra Miller

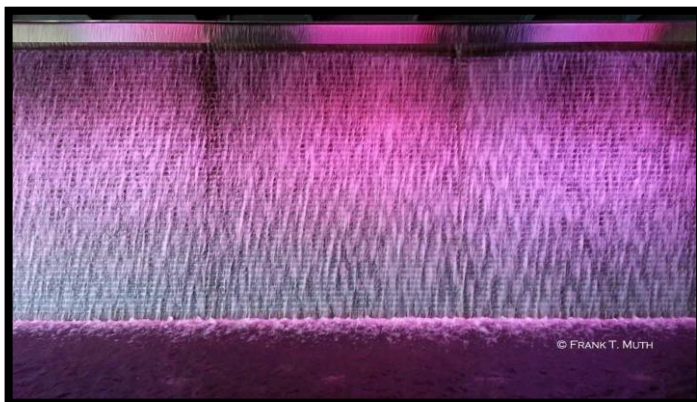


Sesquicentennial – John Simons

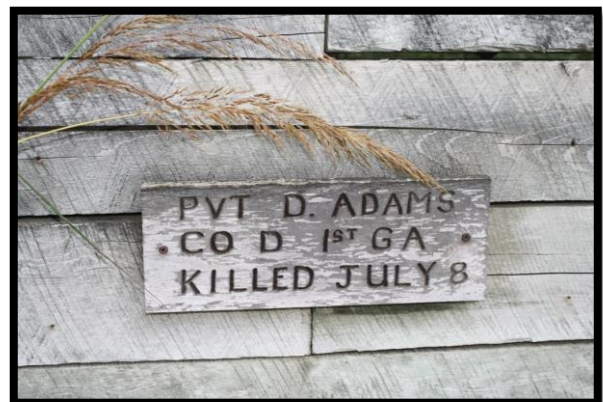
John earned 2nd place honors at the Strawberry Festival, "things or places" category. Dennis took 3rd place in a Northern Virginia contest.



Light at the End – Dennis Govoni

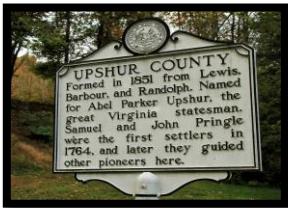


Purple Fountain – Frank Muth



Laurel Hill (Barbour County WV) Fatality – Sandra Miller

Frank's water feature netted 3rd place at the Wildlife Society Conference. Sandi's photo took 2nd place at the Fall in Love with Philippi contest.



Best of 2014 Continued



Because homes matter! – Tina Bulka

Tina's photo was titled and selected for a piece in the online magazine Society for Historic American Homes.



The Handoff – Dennis Govoni

Dennis' heron's photo earned a 2nd place ribbon in a juried Northern Virginia photo competition.

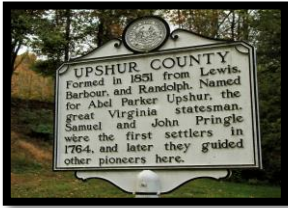


Surf Patterns – Dennis Govoni

Dennis' surf patterns garnered a 3rd place in a Northern VA contest. Frank's photo took a 2nd place in the Wildlife Society Conference event.



Great Blue Heron Silhouette – Frank Muth



2014 Member & Friends' Favorites

This page is a preview of our members and friends' favorite photos taken in 2014. We have a wonderful collection of photos to share with you next month. This page is just a sample of that collection. We encourage other readers to send in their "2014 favorite" to add to the collection.

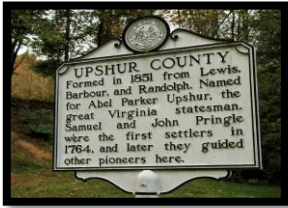


Smoky Mountain Sunrise – Nathan Symons



©rich schaffer

Sharing – Rich Schaffer



Jenny Wiley State Park Workshop

October 17-19, BUCC members Dennis Govoni and Al Tucker attended the Jenny Wiley State Park Photo Workshop in Kentucky. It was led by our friends Amanda Haddox and Ron Gaskins of Mountaineer Photo Excursions. Amanda is also a club member. This is a fun workshop they put on each fall. The highlight is the forest ranger led tour of the wild elk habitat. Not far behind that is the food at the lodge as well as all the other photo shooting locations including a Dewey Lake boating photo excursion. All the other participants were already or became friends of the club: Roger Ballard, Laurinda Bowling, Janet Hutnik, Kelley Logsdon, Laura Mallette, Marlene Mason, Peggy Wilson, and Patricia Ziefle.



Eastern Kentucky Sunrise – Marlene Mason



Elk Habitat – Roger Ballard



Just too curious! – Dennis Govoni



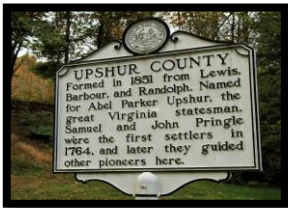
We're outta here! – Alan Tucker



Shooting the Shooter – Janet Hutnik



Legendary Pioneer Woman Jenny Wiley – Marlene Mason



Jenny Wiley State Park Workshop



Prestonburg Mural – Alan Tucker



Prestonburg Tour w/ Jenny & Wild Bill – Amanda Haddox



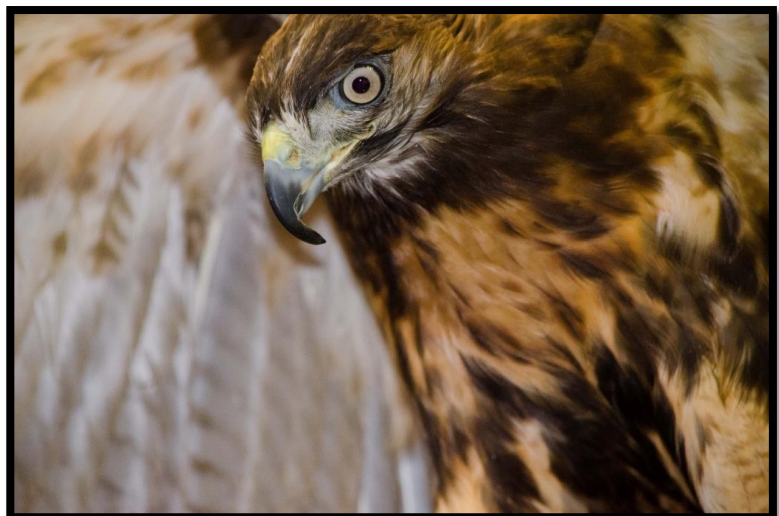
Jenny's Quilts – Peggy Wilson



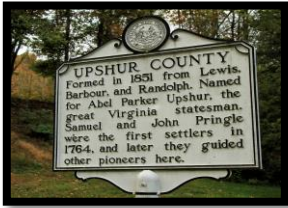
Old Prestonburg Bridge – Patricia Ziefle



Great Horned Owl – Dennis Govoni



Red Tailed Hawk – Kelley Logsdon



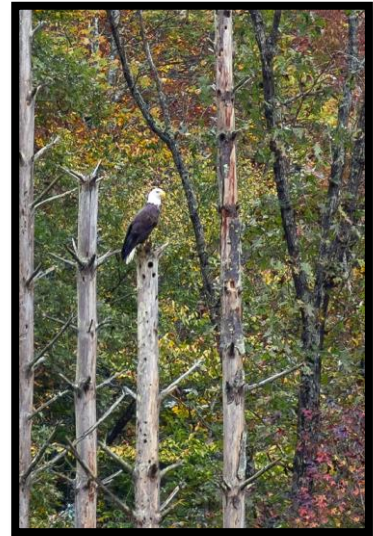
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Sittin' Pretty – Janet Hutnik



Dewey Lake – Laurinda Bowling



On the lookout – Roger Ballard



Dewey Lake – Laurinda Bowling



Dewey Lake – Patricia Ziefle



Great Blue Fishing – Peggy Wilson



Great Blue in Flight – Kelley Logsdon