

Field Trips Guide Book for Photographers

Revised 2008

A publication of the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs



Preface

This field trips guide book has been written by **Dave Carter** and **Ed Funk** of the **Northern Virginia Photographic Society, NVPS**. Both are experienced and successful field trip organizers. **Joseph Miller**, NVPS, coordinated the printing and production of this guide book.

In our view, field trips can provide an excellent opportunity for camera club members to find new subject matter to photograph, and perhaps even more important, to share with others the love of making pictures. Photography, after all, should be enjoyable. The pleasant experience of an outing together with other photographers in a picturesque setting can be stimulating as well as educational.

It is difficult to consistently arrange successful field trips, particularly if the club's membership is small. We hope this guide book will allow camera club members to become more active and involved in field trip activities.

There are four camera clubs that make up the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs McLean, Manassas-Warrenton, Northern Virginia and Vienna. All of these clubs are located within 45 minutes or less from each other. It is hoped that each club will be receptive to working together to plan and conduct field trip activities. There is an enormous amount of work to properly arrange and organize many field trips, and we encourage the field trips coordinator at each club to maintain close contact with the coordinators at the other clubs in the Alliance and to invite members of other clubs to join in the field trip. This means two things: enough participation to make the field trip happen, and the opportunity to meet new friends in the photographic community. While we realize that this Guide Book will be of interest to many camera club members, we do not authorize the making of photo copies.

To order copies of this Guide Book, please contact **Joseph Miller**, 4811 Catharpin Road, Gainesville, VA 20155, or email: Furnfoto@AOL.com. For questions please call 703-7547598.

Section 1. Planning and Organizing Field Trips

Section 2. Some Ideas for Field Trips

Northern Virginia	Southern Maryland
Shenandoah Valley & Virginia Highlands	Western Maryland
Piedmont West	Virginia
Tidewater Virginia	North Carolina
Eastern Shore - Virginia	Delaware
District of Columbia	New Jersey
National Capitol Area	New York
Eastern Shore - Maryland	Pennsylvania

Section 3, On Location Articles from Fotofax

Belle Haven Park	Blue Ridge Parkway
Frederick County Maryland	Smoky Mountain National Park
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	Great Smoky Mtn Nat'l Park-Tenn
Rural Areas West in the Snow	West Virginia and Seneca Rocks
Civil War Battlefields	Huntley Meadows
Night Photography	The Coast of Delaware
Spring Wildflowers	The Flying Circus
Living History Farms	Massanutten Mountain & Fort Valley
Horsehead Sanctuary	New Market & the Shenandoah Valley
Cape May, New Jersey	Baltimore, Maryland
Lancaster County	Prince William Forest Park
Chincoteague	

Section 3, On Location Articles from Fotofax (Cont.)

North Carolina's Outer Banks	The C & O Canal (Continued)
North Carolina's Outer Banks (Continued)	Flower Gardens
Cherry Blossoms & Gardens	Piscataway Park
Ocean City, Maryland	New York City
Lexington, Virginia	Sunrises and Sunsets in DC
The National Zoo	New York City at Night
St Mary's City	Nova Scotia, Canada
Hike to Hoover Camp	Colorado
Virginia's Route 231	Calvert County, Maryland
Harpers Ferry Washington County	Tangier and Smith Islands
The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal	Dallas, Texas

Section 1: Planning and Organizing Field Trips (Dave Carter and Ed Funk)

Properly run, field trips provide not only a variety of photo opportunities for club members, but also help cement the social relations which are so important to the smooth operation of any camera club.

New members and novice photographers are especially likely to benefit from field trips, and any club will do well to encourage new members to go along with those who have been in the club a long time.

What follows is a list of guidelines which will help field trip leaders to plan outings and help participants get the most from their experience. These procedures should never be etched in stone.

1. What sort of person should be selected to plan field trips?

Obviously, it is useful if the person chosen to plan trips knows the area. It is also helpful if the trip leader knows where the club has been in previous years and understands the interests of likely participants. Conducting trips is made easier if the leader is someone who attends to details and does not procrastinate. Planning is easier if done well in advance of the departure date.

2. Where to go?

Club members have a variety of interests, and no one trip is going to satisfy everyone. Nevertheless, it is useful to plan trips which satisfy as many interests as possible. Some photographers prefer to concentrate on landscapes. Others like architecture. Historic areas are fun for many. Destinations can be chosen which offer a variety of subject matter, especially on overnight trips.

The Washington area is blessed with many interesting locations to visit. Finding new locations to visit may be a challenge, but well worth the effort. There are some locations worthy of repeated visits every few years. The mountains of West Virginia, the birds and seashore at Chincoteague, and the wonderful farmlands in Pennsylvania Dutch country come to mind. New locations can still be found, especially if one reads local guide books. Reader's Digest has just published **The Most Scenic Places in America** (1997, \$30.00). This volume is well researched and organized. Other local guide books are useful too. Robert Shosteck's long out of print **Weekender's Guide** is especially thorough. Check used book stores for a copy. **Natural Washington** by Richard L. Berman and Deborah Gerhard may still be in print. Several "One Day Trip" volumes by Jane Ockershausen Smith are full of interesting ideas and are easy to find. Check your favorite bookstore for books of local interest.

Many camera clubs have elderly members who may not be in good physical condition, so trip rigor and/or accommodations should be noted. Trips that require long hikes, rock scrambling, and other strenuous activities will be fun for some, but they limit the number of people who will attend. Leaders may wish to go to areas which are conducive to physically strenuous activities, but it is useful to find destinations which include photo opportunities requiring less physical effort.

Here is an example of how one might plan trips.

-Consider a trip centered around the railroad town of Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

- It has an operating steam train and a railroad museum.
- Unique accommodations are available, i.e., a motel in which each room is a caboose, and a plentiful supply of farms that also have rooms for rent. One unanswered question concerns the comfort of the accommodations and their cost. Photographers, like anyone else, love to be comfortable, especially when the cost is reasonable. Good places to eat are readily available in the Dutch country.
- The real advantage of the Strasburg area is its location between the Amish farms in Lancaster County to the west and the mountainous Delaware Water Gap to the east along New Jersey's border. There is plenty of variety for photographers with almost any interest.
- When to have it? Sometimes, timing is everything. Unless the field trip is to coincide with a particular event, such as a festival of some kind or fall foliage, trip leaders may wish to avoid times of peak traffic. Not only does traffic interfere with photographers' efforts, but sometimes avoiding peak tourist times means lower costs at motels and restaurants. Fall foliage means lots of traffic both in Lancaster County and the Delaware Water Gap. Therefore, spring, before the peak of the tourist season, might be a better time to go.

Some suggested destinations with a brief description appear in Section 2.

3. How many trips should be planned?

Many clubs have one overnight trip in the fall and another in the spring. One-day trips can be planned almost anytime. Weather permitting, outdoor trips can be planned for months which are not too cold. In the Washington, DC area, September, October, November, March, April, and May are good months to go. Sometimes, indoor trips are possible during the colder months. These may include trips to museums to see exhibits by outstanding photographers or painters. One day trips are most often scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays. However, mid-week trips may also be successful. Most clubs have many retired members who enjoy mid-week trips. Others have time flexibility. Some individuals prefer to make photographs without the usual weekend crowds.

In short, weekend and mid-week trips often draw different people. Varying the days selected for field trips is a good way to maximize the number of members attending field trips throughout the year.

4. Attendees

Trip leaders should attempt to figure out how many, and who is likely to go on field trips. Leaders may wish to consult these people in advance regarding both destinations of greatest interest and acceptable dates. This ensures that a reasonable number of people will go. Day trips and overnights have very different planning needs

and participant tolerance, so should be planned accordingly.

Some thoughts on numbers: Having more than two overnight field trips per year certainly increases the number of photo opportunities for those who have the time. However, the number of members attending each trip goes down, thus altering the social character of the event.

Smaller field trips don't allow new members to get to know many members of longer standing, but they may get to know a few very well. On the other hand, large numbers are harder to handle. It is hard to keep a large group together. Large groups tend to break into smaller groups, often cliques. It is also more difficult to find sleeping and eating accommodations for larger groups.

5. Publicizing field trips.

No field trip can be successful if you don't get people to go. Publicity is critical. Club newsletters provide the best way of letting all the members know about planned outings, but leaders can also let them know what to expect. (See the examples attached at the end of section A). Section C (which begins on page 25) contains articles previously published in the NVPS club newsletter in a special column, called On Location. Several members can contribute to a column outlining the highlights of your field trip destination. (For that matter, an On Location column may be of general interest to club members who are looking for places to go on their own.) Each column describes the attractions likely to be of interest, specific directions to the destination, times at which the sun is likely to be in the proper position, and sometimes specific information on useful photo techniques such as what lenses are most likely to be useful. Permission is granted to any member club in the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs to reprint any of the On Location columns in their newsletter or as separate handouts provided they are not edited. The name of the author(s) and date of the article must be included.

6. Accommodations.

Club members like to be comfortable. Try to find a motel located so that little driving is required to get to photogenic areas. Costs should be reasonable. It is useful to have a restaurant nearby. Try to find sleeping accommodations which are secure. Participants may prefer first floor accommodation to minimize the work involved in unloading equipment.

Some thought might be given to identifying those who wish to share a room, but may not know who else may be willing to share. It may also be helpful to participants if the leader helps to arrange car pools.

7. Eating.

Clubs often have a trip banquet, especially on weekend trips. It is always fun to have the group eat together. Photographers, like anyone else, love to eat good food at a reasonable price. Group dinners are usually peak social events of each trip. It is probably wise to avoid specialty restaurants so that there is something on the menu that everyone can eat.

Some clubs like to have a drink and cheese and crackers or other goodies in the leader's room before dinner. That makes it relatively easy to collect the group in one

place, it's fun, and it provides yet another opportunity for members to meet and socialize.

If the group is large, many restaurants will want to limit your menu choices to perhaps two or three items, often a beef dish, fish, and perhaps a vegetarian entre. It is best to avoid this arrangement if possible. Start early and look around for the best deal. Pre-arrange separate checks if possible.

8. Plan early.

The larger the group, the longer it takes to plan your trip. Start a couple of months early at least.

9. Cost.

Keep it reasonable. These trips can be expensive when you add additional costs to the already high costs of meals and motels. It is unwise to make it difficult for club members of modest means to attend the outing.

10. What should participants expect?

First of all, a field trip should be fun. New members and old alike should enjoy these outings as social events. New members should not be shy about asking questions or joining in any conversations. Field trips are an opportunity to discuss photography, ask questions of more-experienced photographers, and to talk about how the camera club operates. Future club leaders often get their start this way.

Trip leaders are wise to try to keep cliques from forming. They can help participants meet others and generally have a good time. Cliques that form on field trips may be cliques which prevail during other club activities. A good mix of people on a field trip is often a good way to break up cliques which may have developed during other club activities.

In the Washington, DC area, new club members are often new to the area. Field trips provide members with an opportunity to learn about their new surroundings.

Members who are not getting what they want from a field trip ought to ask the leader for help, whether that means help in meeting other participants, learning new photographic techniques, or finding new photo opportunities. Encourage participants to seek all the help they need.

Some club members may be surprised to find that frequently, in spite of exciting new surroundings, their pictures are not significantly better than one normally expects to get. Field trips too often provide rushed conditions under which pictures are made. Participants should remember that they don't have to cover the entire territory on club trips. They should slow down and think carefully. This is the best advice one can give, whether photographing in familiar territory or new. They may even wish to revisit the area under ideal conditions.

Sometimes the success of a field trip depends upon having the right equipment. An assortment of camera equipment is crucial, of course. Participants preparing for a field trip often forget needed items. The field trip leader may wish to prepare a list for participants of things which are often overlooked. Such a list might include:

- An extra camera body
- Fresh batteries
- A good variety of lenses
- A rain poncho and/or an umbrella
- Plastic bags to protect camera gear from rain and snow
- Insect repellent
- Sun screen
- Tripod
- Plenty of film
- Snacks
- Informational handouts and/or reference material

Putting together a complete field trip experience and doing the little things to insure that it comes off well are very rewarding. Hearing participants, long after the trip, exclaim: "remember the trip we took to " And seeing field trip photographs in competitions and exhibitions provides all of the satisfaction you will ever need. You will have played an important role in others making new friendships, and sharing photographic techniques and creative vision. We hope this guide will help you do just that.

Section 2

Some Ideas for Field Trips - by Dave Carter and Ed Funk

VIRGINIA

Area of Northern Virginia

1. Old Town, Alexandria - Roughly bounded by Wolfe, Washington and Queen Sts. and the Potomac River. Shady, cobblestone streets of 18th and 19th century houses with courtyards and gardens. Obtain maps and other information at the Ramsay House, location of the Alexandria Visitors Association. Points of interest include Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House, Gadsby's Tavern, Robert E. Lee's boyhood home, Lloyd House, Christ Church, Friendship Firehouse and others. The Torpedo Factory Art Center contains artists' studios and a shop. Excellent photography exhibits.

2. Huntley Meadows Park - An oasis; a rich and diverse natural area in the middle of vast suburbia. Operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority it is 1,261 acres contain mature forest habitat, freshwater wetlands, and meadows, all of which harbor an abundant variety of wildlife, trees, plants and flowers. The park includes a Visitor Center with exhibits, two miles of interpretive trails, 213rds mile wetland boardwalk trail and a wildlife observation tower. Open dawn till dusk. **Tel.** 703-246-5574.

3. Mount Vernon - Estate and burial place of George Washington. The picturesque grounds include the mansion, Washington's tomb, gardens and many outbuildings. A reconstruction of Washington's round barn demonstrates how horses walking around the second level threshed wheat. Open 8-5 summer, 9-4 winter. **Tel.** 703-780-2000. **Admission fee.**

4. Great Falls Park - Operated by the National Park Service, Great Falls is a natural scenic area where the Potomac River plunges wildly over huge boulders and rocks through the Stephen Mather Gorge. Be careful and observe signs as the rocks are treacherous. Many injuries and deaths have occurred here.

5. Skateboard ramp in Woodbridge, Virginia - Veterans Park in Woodbridge contains an excellent skateboard facility where photographers can take very interesting action pictures. There is a large ramp and a concrete bowl. More than a half dozen photographers at one time will probably get in each other's way. Take a wide angle lens, perhaps even a fisheye lens. Photograph from the top of the ramp rather than the bottom to avoid flying boards. The park is open only in good weather. In Spring and Fall the hours are limited to weekends.

6. Mason Neck State Park National Wildlife Refuge - The Park and Refuge sit on a peninsula on the Potomac River between Belmont Bay and Pohick Bay and was set aside for protection of the endangered bald eagle. Mason Neck State Park adjoins the

refuge and offers parking, picnic areas, Visitor's Center, interpretive programs and hiking trails. The National Wildlife Refuge includes good hiking trails but is unmanned and without facilities. Both areas include abundant wildlife.

7. Prince William Forest Park - Triangle, Va. SR 619 A mile west of 1-95. National Park Service administers 18,571 acres including 35 miles of hiking trails. Pine Grove Visitor Center (703-221-7181) conducts interpretive programs on weekends. This is a very good place to shoot leaves in the fall.

8. Colvin Run Mill and Sully Plantation - The restored 19th century mill is on Route 7 approximately 7 miles west of the beltway. Corn meal and whole wheat flour are still ground here, and the millers house and barn contain historical exhibits. Admission to buildings \$4, grounds free. Tel 703-759-2771. Historic Sully Plantation on SR 283/4 mile north of US 50 was built in 1794 by Richard Bland Lee, uncle of Robert E. Lee and northern Virginia's first congressman. The restored house is furnished with antiques of the Federal Period 1795-1811. Admission to house \$4, grounds free. Tel 703-4371794.

9. Virginia Towns

- **Leesburg** - Quaint historic town loaded with antique shops. Morven Park, a restored Greek Revival mansion, is surrounded by beautiful gardens. A one mile scenic nature trail winds through the estate. Admission fee. Tel# 703-777-2414.
- **Oatlands Plantation**, 6 miles south of Leesburg on SR 15, is home to a mansion built combining Federal and Greek Revival styles. Grounds include terraced formal gardens. The popular Christmas at Oatlands begins in mid-November. Tel 703-777-3174.
- **Waterford** - From Leesburg take Old Waterford Road (Rt.698) 7 miles northwest. A local foundation restored the 18th century Waterford Mill which operates as a craft shop. Every October for 3 days Waterford homes are opened to the public and artisans exhibit, demonstrate and sell their wares. You can visit anytime but beware of the large crowds during the October 3-day craft festival.
- **Manassas** - A small railroad town in the 1850's, Manassas was bloodied by the Civil War and changed hands between the North and the South several times. The historic old town section contains buildings from the Victorian era. The Manassas National Battlefield Park just north of 1-66 on Rt.234 commemorates two major battles of Manassas (Bull Run).
- **Middleburg, Warrenton and Culpepper** - These towns lie in the gently rolling hills of the Piedmont. The area is noted for fox hunting, horse shows, farms, ranches and vineyards. Check on Rapidan River Vineyards tours and tastings on Rt.4. (call 540-399-1855). Prince Michel Vineyards (1 Omi so of Culpeper on US 29) conducts tastings and tours (call 540-547-3707 or 800-869-8242). Also, try Dominion Wine Cellars (call 540-825-8772) at the junction of US 29 and Rt. 3, Meredyth Vineyards south of Middleburg on Rt. 628 (call 540-687-6277) and Piedmont Vineyards on Rt. 626 (call 540-687-5528).

10. White's Ferry Terminal - Operating since 1828, the ferry moves passengers, autos and freight from White's Ferry, Md. to the terminal just north of Leesburg. This is the last cable ferry operating on the Potomac River.

11. Route 688 in the snow - Just south of Sky Meadows State Park near Paris, Virginia, is route 688 which provides a splendid drive through farmlands with the Blue Ridge in the background. This country road is kept clear of snow, so it's a great place for winter photography.

12. Scott's Run Nature Preserve (Dranesville District Park) - Just outside the Beltway on Georgetown Pike is Scott's Run Nature Preserve along the Potomac River. The park is known for its creek and waterfall and a fine array of spring wild flowers.

13. Fredericksburg, Virginia - Approx 40 miles south of the beltway on 1-95. The town was founded as a port on the Rappahannock River to handle tobacco shipments from plantations to mother England. Devastated by the Civil War much of the historic area has been restored. The National Historic District contains over 350 original and restored 18th and 19th century buildings. Points of interest on the downtown walking tour include an apothecary shop, the Rising Sun Tavern, Mary Washington House, James Monroe Museum and Kenmore, the **Georgian manor house built by George Washington's sister**. The interior is one of the best in the country and the gardens are beautiful. Antique shops dot the downtown area. Several important Civil War battlefields and memorials are nearby including Fredericksburg National Military Park, Spotsylvania National Military Park, Chancellorsville and Wilderness.

14. Boy Scout National Jamboree near Fredericksburg, Virginia - This international event, takes place every four years at Fort A. P. Hill near Fredericksburg, Va. Thousands of scouts compete in all kinds of picturesque activities. Try to go on a cool day.

15. The Flying Circus, Bealeton, Virginia - Features breath taking aerial stunts and wing walking with restored old bi-planes and other acrobatic aircraft. Open cockpit rides are available before and after each show and a Hot Air Balloon Festival is conducted the third weekend each August. Sundays, May thru October (703)439-8661. Bring a lens of 200mm or preferably longer.

16. Route 20, Wilderness, Va. to Harrisonburg, Va.- Use this route to Harrisonburg if you have the opportunity. Scenic barns, farms, fields and streams along with the rolling countryside make good landscapes.

Area of Shenandoah Valley & Virginia Highlands

17. Skyline Drive/Shenandoah National Park - One of the most beautiful, and historic regions traverses some of the highest portions along the crest of the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains for 105 miles. Seventy-two overlooks provide views of the Shenandoah River Valley to the west and the Piedmont to the east. Closest entry points are from Route 340 at Front Royal, Va. or from Route 211 at Thornton Gap near Luray, Va. Other entrance points are from US 33 at Swift Run Gap and the southern terminus at Rockfish Gap from US 250 at its intersection with 1-64 near Waynesboro. Points of interest include; White Oak Canyon Trail, Stony Man Summit, Big Meadows, and Dark Hollow Falls. In spring the fragrance of azaleas, dogwoods, redbud, and mountain laurel fill the air. In fall the colors blaze in many shades of red and yellow from oak and maple trees. The park is filled with wildlife year round. Daily fee \$5 per vehicle. Or free with annual pass. Tel: 540-999-3500 or 2266.

18. Stony Man Trail, Shenandoah National Park - Stony Man Trail from Skyland is an easy trail to the summit of Stony Man Mountain from which hikers and photographers are greeted by a splendid view of the Blue Ridge and the Shenandoah Valley.

19. Dark Hollow Falls, Shenandoah National Park - The Dark Hollow Falls trail is difficult, but rewarding. The waterfall is perhaps 40 feet high and it is best in the spring and early summer when the water level is high. You can photograph from both sides of the canyon and can even hike behind the falls.

20. White Oak Canyon Trail, Shenandoah National Park - This trail is difficult, but it passes several beautiful waterfalls, some close to 90 feet high. The trail is very long and will take all day going down. Take two cars. Leave one car at the bottom and drive to Skyline Drive in the other. At the end of the hike you can drive back to get the second car. Minimize your equipment. As an alternative, you can hike down to the first falls and return.

21. Caverns of the Blue Ridge - Temperatures in caverns are 54 degrees, bring a sweater. Tripods are NOT permitted so bring a monopod and fast (at least 200 ISO) film.

- Skyline Caverns, Front Royal, Va. near the entrance to Skyline Drive. Tel: 540-635-4545 or 800-296-4545.
- Luray Caverns, see Luray, Va.
- Shenandoah Caverns 540-477-3115 and Endless Caverns 540-896-2283 near New Market, Va.

22. Luray, Va. - Located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley at the base of Massanutten Mountain, Luray was settled by a German/Swiss group. The town is the home of the famous Luray Caverns with chambers up to 140 foot high. They are the largest and most popular caverns in the east. A "Stalacpipe" Organ produces rich symphonic tones while indirect lighting facilitates photography, (monopod and fast

film-see above) and pools provide mirror-like reflections of the mineral formations. Admission fee. Tel 540-743-6551.

23. New Market, Virginia - The quaint town just west of Luray at 1-81 features antique, craft, and collectibles shops and many motels and restaurants. The New Market Battlefield Park commemorates a Confederate victory aided by cadets from VMI. Shenandoah Caverns and Endless Caverns are nearby.

24. Shenandoah Valley (tour circling Massanutten Mountain) - The Shenandoah Valley formed by the Shenandoah & James Rivers lies between the Blue Ridge & Allegheny Mountains, containing some of the more spectacular scenery in the country.

25. Old Rag Mountain, Virginia - Get a Shenandoah National Park trail book for this long, challenging climb. There is probably a greater variety of scenery along this trail than any other in the park, beginning with a waterfall at the bottom. Be prepared for some real rock scrambling. Minimize your equipment.

26. Natural Chimneys Jousting Tournament - Natural Chimneys Regional Park is the site of seven massive stone formations called "chimney". One, over 100 feet leans like the Tower of Pisa. The National Jousting Hall of Fame Tournament is held the third Saturday in June while the Natural Chimneys Jousting Tournament is the third Saturday in August.

27. Route 50 into West Virginia. - The history of the US can be found here. George Washington proposed the route as the Northwestern Turnpike, a road through the Virginias to the Ohio River. It traverses horse and cattle ranches, farms, and vineyards; old towns, new towns, big towns and small towns; courthouses, churches, cemeteries, mills, monuments, inns, taverns and museums; and more.

28. George Washington National Forest and the Jefferson National Forest- Together they cover 1.8 million acres and go from Winchester in the north to Big Stone Gap near the southwestern tip of Virginia. They cross the Blue Ridge, Massanutten, Shenandoah, and Allegheny mountain ranges into West Virginia. The nearest access point is near Massanutten approximately 90 miles from Washington. The Massanutten Gap Visitor Center can be found on US 211 west of Luray at New Market Gap.

29. Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia & North Carolina - "America's most scenic drive". The 469 mile Parkway connects the southern terminus of Skyline Drive with The Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the North Carolina - Tennessee border.

Piedmont Area

30. King's Dominion - A Theme park covering 400 acres is located just off 1-95, 75 miles south of the beltway. Seven theme areas include 50 rides and live shows. A 300 foot replica of the Eiffel Tower provides excellent photographic position

31. Richmond, Virginia - Richmond represents the best of the past and the present preserved together. Its history covers four centuries from the early 1600s when settlers traded with Indians on the banks of the James River. Col. William Byrd laid out the city in 1747. The Virginia Convention was held in the St. John's Church where Patrick Henry proclaimed "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death"! The State Capital was designed in 1785 by Thomas Jefferson after a Roman temple in Nimes, France. Richmond became the Capital of the Confederacy in 1861. Much of the city was destroyed by flames after Confederate soldiers set fire to the government warehouse before fleeing. Much of the city was rebuilt after the Civil War. Richmond today is a city of contrasts. Architecture from many periods can be found here where modern steel and glass office towers can be seen along the James and its 18th century structures. Other points of interest include Agecroft Hall, Maymont, Museum of the Confederacy, Museum of Fine Arts, Tuckahoe Plantation, Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, Valentine Museum, Edgar Allan Poe Museum, John Marshall House, Science Museum, and Monument Avenue.

32. Charlottesville, Virginia - The "heart" of Thomas Jefferson country. His design influence can be seen not only in Monticello and the University of Virginia but in many of the estate mansions which can be visited during Garden Week. The University of Virginia tour should not be missed. Other points of interest include, the Ash Lawn estate of James Monroe and the historic Michie Tavern.

Tidewater

33. Northern Neck area of Virginia. - Between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers, the Northern Neck is a narrow picturesque peninsula. The George Washington Birthplace National Monument lies 38 miles east of Fredericksburg via Rts. 3 & 204. Stratford Hall Plantation, a short distance to the east via Rts. 3 & 214, is the ancestral home of the Lee family. The only two brothers to sign the Declaration of Independence, Richard Henry and Francis Lightfoot Lee, were sons of Thomas Lee, acting Governor of Virginia. Gen. Robert E. Lee, son of "Light Horse" Harry Lee, was born here. The Colonial style house was restored and furnished with period pieces. The plantation gardens, stable and gristmill overlook the Potomac. Two miles of nature trails traverse the grounds. (Admission. Call 804-493-8038). Westmoreland State Park is located between the above two historic sites. Continuing southeast on Rt.3 visit the Historic Courthouse Area in Montross. Warsaw located at the junction of Rts.3 & 360 is noted for its courthouse and St. John's Church. Follow Rt.360 to the picturesque county seat of Heathsville, where you will find another historic courthouse,

the Ball Memorial Library and Museum, and the St. Stephens Church. Continue on Rt. 360 to the fishing port of Reedville, and its Victorian mansions. There you will find the Covington Building with its two galleries, one permanent and the other of rotating exhibits. Look for the Fisherman's Museum and Walker House. Ferries to Smith and Tangier Islands and Bay Cruises depart from the Reedville area. Following Rt. 200 south you will return to Rt.3 south toward White Stone. Christ Church on Rt. 646 is one of the best examples of colonial church architecture remaining in Virginia. Windmill Point at the southeastern tip of the peninsula provides a scenic panorama where the Rappahannock flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Returning to Fredericksburg, try a side trip on the Merry Point Ferry for a free crossing of the scenic Corrotoman River (7 A-7P Mon-Sat). Returning to Rt.3 visit Lancaster and its historic buildings. The North Farnham Church on Rt. 607 just off Rt.3 is in Colonial style, and in the form of a Latin cross.

34. Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Jamestown, Virginia.- Colonial Williamsburg has over 80 buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries. Other buildings have been rebuilt on the original sites. Interpreters dressed in 18th century attire complement historic buildings on Duke of Gloucester Street. Check on schedules for Fife & Drum Corp parades and military drills. Interesting people pictures should be available in the Colonial Williamsburg area, on the grounds of The Governor's Palace, and the surrounding area. Watch for costumed re-enactment activities. Architectural images abound in Yorktown, Jamestown, the College of William & Mary, and Colonial Williamsburg. Look for architectural details. Look in the shop windows for interesting subjects. Bring your macro lens, extenders, and a polarizer to eliminate reflections and glare. Night photography of the shop windows and illuminated buildings will produce interesting images. Early morning images of rising fog and mist are frequently available at Jones Mill Pond off of Colonial Parkway and along the James River. Yorktown on the eastern end of Colonial Parkway has nine 18th century buildings that survived the Battle of Yorktown, ending the Revolutionary War. Visit Swan Tavern and the Waterman's Museum. The Yorktown Victory Center commemorates the American Revolution. The original Jamestown lies on the West end of Colonial Parkway and commemorates the first permanent English colony (1607) in the new world. Don't forget Williamsburg Pottery and the many outlet shopping places. Call 1-800-HISTORY or 1-800-500-4823 for visitor information and accommodations.

35. Busch Gardens - "The Old Country" theme includes nine European hamlets in four country areas. England - Germany - France - and Italy. Also featured are over 100 rides, shows, and exhibits. (Call 703-522-1387 Arlington office or 804-253-3350).

36. The James River plantations - Homes of the New World aristocracy. Plantation owners striving to recreate the majesty of England developed an easy graciousness admired by visiting noblemen. The manors became the source of early presidents and signers of the Declaration of Independence. These restored manor houses are popular with visitors today. Follow Rt.5 east from Richmond along the north side of the James. The first plantation, 20 miles from Richmond known as Shirley, was the home of Anne Hill Carter and the site of her marriage to "Light Horse" Harry Lee. Their son, Gen.

Robert E. Lee visited frequently. The 3-story Queen Anne-style house has a carved pineapple, the symbol of hospitality on the roof. Berkeley, 3 miles further east is the site of a 3-story Georgian house and the birthplace of both Benjamin Harrison, another signer and William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States. Another Benjamin, two generations later became our 23rd President. Sherwood Forest was home to William Henry Harrison and another President, John Tyler. The 300 foot frame house is thought to be the longest in the US. On the south side of the James (which can be reached via Rt. 10 east from Hopewell or by ferry from Jamestown) is Flowerdew Hundred, Brandon, Bacon's Castle and Chippokes.

37. Norfolk Botanical Gardens at azalea time. - The gardens are located near the airport, and comprise 155 acres. They include one of the largest collections of azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons, and roses on the east coast. Twelve miles of pathways, plus a trackless train, and canal boats, are available. Admission. Call 757-441-5830.

38. Norfolk harbor tour - Several harbor tours are available. The Carrie B and the Spirit of Norfolk leave from the Waterside in Norfolk. The Miss Hampton" departs from the Hampton Visitor Center and the HARBOR CRUISE AT WATERMAN'S WHARF in Newport News. A Tall sailing ship American Rover also sails from the Waterside in Norfolk.

39. Virginia Beach area - The Virginia Beach area includes Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Hampton and Newport News. The area is rich in historic architecture, harbors, museums, parks, gardens, beaches, and refuges. Visit NASA's Langley Research Center, the Mariner's Museum, Chrysler Museum, Marine Science Museum and countless others. Visit the Seashore State Park on Cape Henry with its old and new lighthouses and the stone cross at Fort Story commemorating the landing of the first settlers. The Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge is also worth a visit.

Eastern Shore

40. Chincoteague - One of the oldest fishing ports in the US takes you a step back in time when you cross the Chincoteague channel bridge. Chincoteague is home to the Oyster and Maritime Museum and the decoys of the Refuge Waterfowl Museum. It is also the gateway to the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Assateague Island where horses run wild. The ponies are rounded up to swim across the channel for auction in late July each year. Those not sold swim back. The refuge is a major stopping place along the east coast migration flyway. A large variety of birds and waterfowl are found here. Deer, raccoons and other wildlife inhabit the refuge guarded by an old lighthouse.

Washington, DC Area

41. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens - A large variety of water plants are found among 44 ponds in the last remaining Washington, DC marsh. Water lilies, lotuses and water hyacinths are among the flowering plants that bloom May through September. Mid to late July is best for lotus blossoms and water lilies. Grounds open at 6:30am, and the Visitor center at 8:00am. Catch the best light from 6:30 to 9:00am. Early morning fog/mist can be excellent. Unusual landscapes. Bird watchers love it.

42. Georgetown neighborhood, and Dumbarton Oaks - Walk the side streets of Georgetown, between Georgetown University and Dumbarton Oaks. Fall is the best time of the year for scenic and architectural photography.

43. National Mall - Architectural beauty, great museums, monuments and gardens are all within easy walking distance. Obtain tripod permits from the US Capitol Police. Ask for a group permit and make copies for each person.

44. National Arboretum - New York Avenue, N.E. - The 444 acre arboretum contains both introduced and native plants common to the Northeastern U.S. Primarily woody plants, the preserve includes dwarf conifers, peonies, daylilies, boxwood, holly, magnolia, crabapples, native ferns, wildflowers and azaleas. The old Capitol Columns are displayed here and provide interesting subject matter. The National Herb Garden and the Bonsai House are near the Administrative building as are several pools containing ornamental aquatic plants. Grounds are open daily 8-5. Tel: 202-245-2726.

45. National Cathedral - Interesting architecture and stained glass windows make good subject matter. The grounds are also a good place for cherry blossoms.

46. National Zoo - 3000 block of Connecticut Ave. N.W. - Indoor and outdoor exhibits contain several thousand animals. The design of the enclosures facilitate photography and simulates natural habitat. Grounds are open 8-8 summer and 8-6 winter. Tel: 202-673-4955 or 4800 (recorded information).

47. Cherry Blossoms - The annual Spring display at the Tidal Basin must be seen and photographed. The joggers and the gawkers also provide opportunities for people pictures. Occurs around the end of March/first week of April. Peak time publicized.

MARYLAND

National Capitol Area

48. Suitland Bog - A board walk through this botanical area provides access to some very rare plants, including some orchids. Call (301) 297-4547 for more information.

49. Adventure World - The 115 acre amusement park has three roller coasters and a large water park. Admission. (Call 301-249-1500).

50. Brookside Gardens - Wheaton, Md. - Two conservatories and 50 acres of outdoor gardens provide ample subject matter. Look for the seasonal displays. No tripods are allowed in the conservatories. Free admission. Call 301-949-8230.

51. Kenwood, Md. - Kenwood is a residential neighborhood (off River Road near DC line) that includes many grand old Cherry Blossom trees. They usually bloom about the same time as those at the Tidal Basin.

52. Air Show at Andrews Air Force Base - Every Memorial Day marks the occasion of a great air show with modern jet planes. Watch the Weekend section of the Washington Post for details. Bring a lens with a focal length of at least 200mm.

53. Kensington Orchids - Kensington Orchids is one of the largest suppliers of orchids in the world. There are seven green houses full of orchids and photographers are given access to all of them. Go early before the place gets crowded and get permission first. Tripods are permitted, but avoid the weeks before Easter.

54. Great Falls - Operated by the National Park Service Great Falls is a natural scenic area where the Potomac River plunges wildly over huge boulders and rocks through the Stephen Mather Gorge. Be careful and observe signs as the rocks are treacherous. Many injuries and deaths have occurred here. The C & O Canal and towpath run parallel with the gorge and provide access to the cataract overlooks.

55. Billy Goat Trail - This trail along the Maryland side of the Potomac River lies between the river and the C&O Canal. It is a rough hike as the trail rises from river level to the top of a rocky cliff near Great Falls. See section C for details. There is enough good scenery to fill two On Location articles. Watch for rock climbers near Great Falls.

56. The Montgomery County Fair - This is the best county fair in the area. It's even better than the state fairs. Take your camera and tripod to Gaithersburg and try your hand at some great night photography. The fair is held in late August. There is often a similar "Children's Fair" in June.

57. Lilypons Water Gardens - near Buckeystown, Md. - Hundred's of acres of nursery ponds are cultivated and maintained for harvest and sale. Many varieties of water lilies, lotus blossoms and other pond loving plants and fish can be seen. Photography is encouraged and an annual photo contest held. Tripods are permitted. Located on Lilypons Road between Park Mills Road and Rt. 85 (Buckeystown Pike).

58. Annapolis - Historic capital city for over 300 years and home to the U.S. Naval Academy. Many 18th century homes and along the busy Severn River waterfront. Some buildings have become museums open to the public. Visit the Hammond-Harwood House, and the William Paca House and Garden, in addition to the State House and the Naval Academy. Also, the nearby London Town House and Gardens with its 1760 tavern and 8 acres of gardens should not be missed.

59. Baltimore, Maryland - A favorite night photography location, Baltimore is rich in varied architectural subjects. You will find modern skyscrapers next to 18th and early 19th century buildings, industrial complexes, seaports and shipyards, old and new. There are ethnic neighborhoods with restored town homes, the former homes of colonial patriots, and so much more. Some of the many attractions are Harborplace, Fells Point Seaport, Edgar Allan Poe House, Poe Grave in Westminster Churchyard, Fort McHenry, 8&O Railroad Museum, Babe Ruth Birthplace, National Aquarium, Shot Tower, Sherwood Gardens, Little Italy and more.

60. Sugarloaf Mountain – It rises over 1200 feet above the Frederick farmlands for a grand view of the countryside, and was used as a Union Army signal station during the Civil War.

61. Frederick and Frederick County, Maryland - Although close to Washington, much of the county remains surprisingly rural. Highlights include the historic town of Frederick, mountain scenery, farmlands, the railroad town of Brunswick, Point of Rocks along the Potomac River, the Monocacy Civil War Battlefield, Catoclin Mountain Park, and Cunningham Falls State Park.

62. Catoclin Mountain National Park, Cunningham Falls State Park, and covered bridges near Thurmont, Maryland - Catoclin is home to Camp David (off-limits). The hiking and bridle trails are especially beautiful in fall color. Cunningham Falls makes great subject matter. Drop off your equipment and passengers at the trail head off Rt. 77 (handicapped parking only here) before proceeding to the Visitor Center parking lot for the hike back. Also, be sure to find the Roddy Road Covered Bridge north of Thurmont just off Rt.15 over Owen's Creek. Another covered bridge is the 101 foot Utica Bridge also off Rt.15 at Utica, Md. almost half-way between Frederick and Thurmont. The Loy best one to photograph.

63. Antietam National Battlefield - Sharpsburg, Maryland, Rts. 34/65 - The site of the "bloodiest" battle of the Civil War. This scenic area of rolling hills includes an 8 mile driving tour of the battlefield. Costumed interpreters depict military life and provide demonstrations. The cemetery visitor center provides a moving experience. The surrounding countryside provides farms, barns, equipment and animals for photographic subjects.

Eastern Shore

64. Sandy Point State Park, Kent Island, and Horsehead Sanctuary, Maryland - Sandy Point State Park noted, for it's beaches, bird watching and surf fishing, provides excellent views of the Bay Bridge. Located near the Annapolis end of the Bay Bridge, it is ideal for sunrise.

- Kent Island is a historic community of fishing/boating marinas. Hemingway's Restaurant serves excellent food. Hemingway's may even refund your Bridge toll, so be sure to ask about this.

- Horsehead Sanctuary near Grasonville, Md. is a rehabilitation center for injured birds. Small ponds contain ducks with clipped wings preventing their flying away while recovering. A blind also permits photo opportunities. The sanctuary, for a contribution (about \$100) can arrange photo shoots with birds and waterfowl in natural settings.

65. Oxford, St. Michaels, and Tilghman Island, Maryland - Historic seaports, shipbuilding and watermen's communities, Oxford was the original port of entry for the colony. English businesses established stores to trade goods for tobacco. The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum is located in St. Michaels.

66. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Walk - Every year one Sunday in May, usually the first, one span of the bridge is closed to traffic and opened to hikers. Bus transportation is provided to the Eastern Shore side of the bay and you walk back taking as long as you like. There are excellent opportunities to photograph both people and ships. Watch for details in the Weekend section of the Washington Post.

67. Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, Maryland - near Cambridge, Md. The large refuge is home to eagles, ducks and geese and they peak during fall migration. Wildlife Drive provides photo

opportunities for 6.5 miles through the refuge. Many other small mammals can be found along with the Delmarva fox squirrel. (Call 410-228-2677)

68. Cambridge, Maryland - The High Street Historic District has many 18th and early 19th century buildings of varied architectural styles. Nearby in Lloyds, is the reconstructed Spocott Windmill, and in Church Creek near Blackwater NWR, you will find the Old Trinity Church and graveyard.

69. Ocean City, Maryland, and Assateague Island State Park - The well known seaside resort is popular for its beaches, boardwalk and amusement parks which include a 1902 carousel. The carnival atmosphere of Ocean City is contrasted by the serene beauty of Assateague Island. Surf fishing, crabbing and clamming are enjoyed along the primitive beaches.

70. Chestertown, Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, Chesapeake City, & the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal - Chestertown is the Kent County seat and was a port of entry for English goods before the Revolutionary War. Picturesque 18th century homes face the Chester River. The historic White Swan Tavern and Courthouse should also be seen. South of Chestertown and Rock Hall and also on the Bay, is the Eastern Neck Island National Wildlife Refuge, popular with birders and geese. In the upper part of the county, the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal provides a more direct route from the port of Baltimore to the Atlantic for oceangoing vessels. Chesapeake City developed as a result of the canal.

71. Crisfield, Deale Island, White Haven, and Princess Anne, Maryland - Crisfield is a picturesque waterman's community that bills itself as the "seafood capital of the world.". Ferries depart daily with passengers for Smith and Tangiers Islands. Deale Island is home to the dwindling fleet of the famous Chesapeake Bay "skipjack". White Haven has an interesting cable drawn ferry. Look for the osprey nest near the northern terminal.

72. Smith Island – This island in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay contains a small fishing community isolated from the rest of the region. It is reachable only by boat. Avoid hot humid days because the haze can be terrible.

73. Tangier Island - Like Smith Island, Tangier Island is home to a picturesque fishing community. It is reachable by boat or private airplane. Avoid the haze on hot humid days.

Southern Maryland

74. St. Mary's County - St. Mary's County in Southern Maryland borders the Chesapeake Bay. It is noted for its living history exhibits at St. Mary's City where a replica of The Dove, one of the ships which brought colonists to Southern Maryland, is located. There is also a 16th century tobacco plantation. There are a number of historic areas in the county as well as generally scenic areas along the bay and St. Mary's River.

75. Calvert County - Also located in Southern Maryland along the Chesapeake Bay, Calvert County provides interesting scenery, especially at Calvert Cliffs State Park where countless fossils are to be found. Other areas of interest include Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, the Chesapeake Beach Railroad Museum, and the Cove Point lighthouse.

76. Charles County - Charles County borders the Potomac River from Marshall Hall to Cobb Island. The historic river port town of Port Tobacco was once an Indian village ruled by a queen. Visit the historic restored 1890 Court House. Several state parks and forests provide nature trails, picnic and camp sites and serve as wildlife sanctuaries. Doncaster State Forest and Cedarville State Park provide many photo opportunities as do the tobacco farms near Allen's Fresh. Pope's Creek is noted for its crab houses. Other places of interest are the many historic churches, the Carmelite Monastery and Salmwood's Retreat.

Western Maryland

77. Hagerstown & Washington County - Billed as "Battlefields, Forts and Farms that shaped our Nations History", Washington County lies in the Allegheny foothills. Hagerstown is western Maryland's largest city with many interesting architectural buildings. Visit the very interesting 1739 Hager House (a fortress) at City Park. Attend the National Pike Festival in May and the Alsatia Festival October 30-31. City Park is illuminated in mid December. The Ziem Vineyards off Rt. 63 between Fairplay and Downsville has many photographic possibilities.

78. Cumberland, Frostburg, and Hancock, Maryland - Fort Cumberland for which the town is named was headquarters during the French & Indian War for Gen. Edward Braddock and then 21 year old Lt. George Washington. The one room building still stands. Cumberland developed into an important city as the western terminus of the C&O Canal and eastern terminus of the National Road (to become Rt.40). The C&O Canal National Historic Park just south of town contains the last three lift locks (see #73#75). The picturesque college town of Frostburg sits on a 2200 foot plateau and owes its beginnings to the National Road. The Thrasher Carriage Museum contains a major collection of horse drawn conveyances.

Hancock is home to The C&O Canal Museum and is located at the western edge of Washington County along historic Rt.40. From Hancock the new 1-68 provides a scenic route west through the Allegheny Mountains but you may prefer to return to the parallel Rt 40 between exits 74 & 62 through Piney Grove and the Bill Meyer Wildlife Management Area.

79. Old Route 40 in Western Maryland - The National Road was the first built with Federal funds after an act of Congress in 1806. The road started at Cumberland and provided a route through the mountains to the Ohio Valley. See Cumberland, Frostburg and Hancock above. The route crosses the historic 1813 Casselman Bridge east of Grantsville. The longest single span stone bridge in America is also near the site of the 1797 Stanton's Mill, one of the oldest grist mills. The Penn Alps/Spruce Forest Artisan Village is also located here.

80. State parks in Western Maryland - Fort Frederick, Rocky Gap, New Germany, Big Run, Deep Creek Lake, Dans Mountain, Swallow Falls, Herrington Manor. Fort Frederick is especially note worthy for its living history demonstrations.

WEST VIRGINIA

81. Harpers Ferry, West Virginia & Maryland Heights - Harpers Ferry, site of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, lies at the scenic confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. Much of the town has been restored and the National Park Service maintains exhibits and trails while conducting walking tours and interpretive programs. Look for the period costumes and men in Civil War uniforms. Abandoned locks of the C & O Canal are nearby. Across the Shenandoah a trail leads up to the Maryland Heights stone fort and Naval Gun Battery and a grand view of the town, the valley and the rivers confluence. It is spectacular in fall color. The nearby Maryland towns of Brunswick and Point of Rocks are both historic railroad towns along the Potomac River and have many old scenic buildings. Night photography can be very interesting at Harpers Ferry and in nearby Brunswick, Md.

82. Dolly Sods, Seneca Rocks, Spruce Knob, and Monongahela National Forest - Almost 1 millions acres of mountain wilderness includes many scenic areas including Seneca Rocks, an unusual scenic rock formation. A moderate hike to the top is rewarded with grand vistas. Spruce Knob is the highest point in West Virginia at 4,861feet with an observation tower at the summit. The Dolly Sods Wilderness area also provides scenic vistas but is better known for itis wide variety of plant life and upland bogs. It is an excellent fall foliage location, but good any time.

83. Canaan Valley State Park and Blackwater Falls, near Davis, WV. - Canaan (kaNAIN) is a scenic state resort and conference center with cross-country skiing in winter and golf in summer. Wildlife, primarily deer, is abundant. The Blackwater River falls almost 60 feet at the head of an eight mile long gorge. Stairways and boardwalks lead to the base of the falls with observation points along the way.

84. Cass Scenic Railroad, West Virginia - Cass is an historic lumber town which had a huge operation at the turn of the century. The scenic railway uses the route of the old logging trains up Cheat Mountain.

85. West Virginia towns (Charles Town, Martinsburg, & Shepherdstown) - Reach Charles Town from Virginia via scenic Rt.9 which also connects Martinsburg and Shepherdstown via Rt.480. These historic towns are rich with 18th and early 19th century architecture. Shepherdstown is the oldest West Virginia city and home to West Virginia's first newspaper, post office and church west of the Blue Ridge. Shepherd College gives it the small college town atmosphere and the Bavarian Inn on a hill overlooking the Potomac serves good food. This area is very close to the Maryland town of Sharpsburg and Antietam National Battlefield.

NORTH CAROLINA

86. Outer Banks, North Carolina - The narrow barrier islands of the Outer Banks stretch over 100 miles along the Atlantic coast of North Carolina. They include the Cape Hatteras and the Cape Lookout National Seashores and the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Jockey's Ridge State Park has the highest sand dunes in the east and are popular with hang gliders. A hang gliding festival and competition is held in May each year. Sunrises and sunsets can both be spectacular from the outer banks. Visit the Wright Brothers National Memorial at Kill Devil Hills and the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The lighthouse is an especially good place for photographing surfers.

87. Manteo, NC - Manteo is reached from the Outer Banks via a causeway to historic Roanoke Island. Across the Manteo waterfront is the reproduction of the Elizabethan ship used by Sir Walter Raleigh over 400 years ago. Visit the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and the Elizabethan Gardens.

88. Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia & North Carolina - "America's most scenic drive". The 469 mile Parkway connects the southern terminus of Skyline Drive with The Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the North Carolina - Tennessee border.

89. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Most visited of America's National Parks, the 520,000 acre park straddles the North Carolina - Tennessee border. Newfound Gap Road crosses the park with 16 summits of 6,000 feet or higher. The park contains a great variety of plant life and from mid-March to mid-May creates a spectacular display of wildflowers with many lasting well into the summer. Streams are bordered with rhododendron and dogwood. Waterfalls and wildlife abound. The Cades Cove area is rich in wildlife and history. The 11 mile loop drive passes primitive churches, log cabins, barns and the restored Cable Mill.

DELAWARE

90. Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Leipsic, Delaware - Particularly active during spring and fall migrations, the refuge can be accessed through it's 12 mile loop drive around marshes and ponds. There is also an observation tower. Visit Allee House, the 1753 Queen Anne-style farmhouse.

91. Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Lewes, Delaware - Prime Hook is a migratory waterfowl refuge favored by Black Ducks and Wood Ducks. It is home to fox, deer, otter, and other small mammals.

92. The Delaware Shore - Rehoboth and Dewey Beaches are popular beach destinations while the Delaware Seashore State Park is known for it's uncrowded beaches. The Assawoman Game Refuge is popular with birders and naturalists.

93. Delaware City and Fort Delaware State Park - Delaware City overlooks Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River across from New Jersey. Fort Delaware served as a Civil War island prison and houses a museum displaying memorabilia. The island is a nature preserve with trails and an observation tower overlooking nesting sites. Boats to the island are frequent and the small admission fee includes boat fare. Call 302-834-7941.

94. Wilmington, Delaware - Settled in 1638 by Swedish fur traders, Wilmington is noted for its museums and gardens. The scenic Brandywine River and Valley extends from Pennsylvania through Wilmington where it joins with the Delaware River and flows to the bay and Atlantic Ocean. The restored Grand Opera House is the centerpiece. The Brandywine Park designed by Olmstead includes the Josephine Garden with over 100 Japanese cherry trees. Visit the 1698 Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Episcopal Church and the Hagley Museum.

95. Winterthur Museum and Gardens in Delaware - The museum displays an unmatched collection of decorative arts made in America from 1640 to 1840. The collection is housed in two buildings including the former mansion of Pierre S. Du Pont. The gardens represent an 18th century park and include ponds, meadows and forest.

96. Nemours in Delaware - Named after the location of the Du Pont family home in France, the house was built in the style of a Louis XVI chateau. The French-style gardens extend a third of a mile from the house. Reservations are necessary. **Photography is NOT permitted** in the mansion.

NEW JERSEY

97. Cape May, New Jersey - Picturesque Cape May is the oldest seashore resort in the United States and one of the most unique. Stretching 20 miles out to sea, this oasis is a place to relax, to enjoy the Atlantic Ocean, and most of all, to view the largest collection of authentic Victorian structures in the nation. The most distinctive feature about Cape May is its Victorian heritage, carefully retained in several hundred beautifully manicured houses throughout the city. Cape May has enjoyed a major renaissance in the last decade. Many Victorian structures adorned with carved barge boards, ornate verandas and crowned dormers, have been restored. Most of the homes, hotels, shops and other buildings were constructed in the late 1800's at the prime of the Victorian era. Today small gingerbread houses stand beside magnificent Victorian showplaces.

98. Atlantic City, New Jersey - The colorful casinos along the boardwalk make interesting subjects with their neon glow in the evening. Mist or fog from the ocean can enhance the feeling. Be careful at night, go with a crowd.

99. New Jersey Pine Barrens - An unusual ecosystem of sandy pine and oak forests, cedar swamps, bogs and streams. The area supports a large variety of plant life. Many species of orchids are found here.

100. Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey - also called the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge - Brigantine Division. This is a vital stop along the Atlantic Flyway for migratory birds and was recently saved from development. The refuge has an eight mile self-guided loop auto tour with numerous exhibits and two observation towers. Eagles frequently nest here.

NEW YORK

101. New York City - It would take many trips to this city to exhaust the photographic possibilities. Make a plan before-hand to insure efficiency in getting around. Traveling in a small group is best. Four can share a cab inexpensively, which by the way, is the best way get around. On a recent trip, one group cabbied it from their mid-town hotel to the downtown

marina near the World Financial Center for sunrise. Then they photographed along the Hudson Riverfront down to Battery Park, they then cabbied it to the Seaport on the east side near the Brooklyn Bridge for lunch. After lunch, they covered the Seaport, fish markets, river scenes, Wall Street and City Hall until late afternoon before cabbied back to the hotel. Don't miss the night photography, and have a good time.

PENNSYLVANIA

102. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - The birthplace of our nation preserves our past at Independence National Historic Park. Independence Hall, Congress Hall and the Liberty Bell Pavilion are located here along with other historic Colonial buildings. Philadelphia's universities and museums are unique architectural subjects. Fairmount Park along the Schuylkill River contains many and varied subjects including racing skulls on the river, the Japanese Tea House and Garden, museums, mansions, illuminated boathouses, the Zoo and more. Don't miss Philly's Italian market and Reading Terminal market.

103. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania - The Amish and Mennonite farmland is magnificent. Photograph these people only with permission. This is easy to do with the Mennonites, and impossible with the Amish. Obtain maps from the visitor center and follow the "back roads" through the farmland. Stop at the Mennonite Visitor Center to learn more about the culture and history of the area. Also, the tours conducted by personnel from the visitor center are highly recommended. The guide will accompany you in your vehicle through the farmland pointing out and explaining the people, equipment and methods used. This knowledge will enable you to improve the storytelling nature of your photographs. The taped tour is excellent also.

104. Strasburg Railroad, Strasburg, Pennsylvania - Enjoy the Railroad Museum and ride authentic turn-of-the-century rail cars through Amish farmland on America's oldest short-line steam railroad.

105. Laurel Highlands - The rolling Allegheny Mountains and plateau of southwest central Pennsylvania form the Laurel Highlands. This scenic area is home to several year-round golf and ski resorts. Near Altoona, railroad fans enjoy the Horseshoe Curve National Historic Landmark and the Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum downtown. Bedford is known for its covered bridges and the Old Bedford Village of pioneer crafts and log cabins.

106. Ohiopyle Park - Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania - White water rafting/kayaking, is very popular at this park, near Fallingwater, the Frank Lloyd Wright designed home.

107. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania - The beautiful rolling Pennsylvania farm land was the site of one of the most important and deadly Civil War Battles. The death of over 50,000 men during the 3 day battle is commemorated by the Gettysburg National Military Park as well as Abraham Lincoln's speech. A self-guided downtown walking tour covers 90 restored buildings. The Eisenhower farm, now a National Historic Site, is reached from the National Park Visitor Center by shuttle bus.

108. Hawk Mountain - This is a sanctuary to migrating birds-of-prey. Bald rock promontories of the Appalachian Mountain area provide scenic vistas. The area is popular with birders from late August to late November viewing migrating hawks. Bring binoculars and a very long lens.

109. Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania - Located on US Rt.1 near Kennett Square, the magnificent Longwood Gardens presents one of the finest displays of flowers throughout the year. The Conservatories house seasonal indoor gardens colorful through the winter. The Christmas display and outdoor lighting are featured in December. Nearby in Chadds Ford visit the Brandywine River Museum. Tripods are not usually permitted.

110. Hershey, Pennsylvania - The amusements, gardens, museum and zoo grew from the generosity of the Hershey family and their efforts to make life better for their factory workers. Hershey Gardens consists of six themed (including Japanese & English) gardens on 23 acres.

Section 3

“ON LOCATION” ARTICLES FROM FOTOFAX

Belle Haven Park - by Jim Sollo
Fotofax, October 1987

My favorite location for photographing the sunrise is **Belle Haven Park**, located south of the beltway, adjacent to the George Washington Parkway. Drive south on the Parkway and make a left turn into the park toward the marina. Then make an immediate left into the area in front of the picnic grounds. Walk across the picnic area to the bank of the Potomac River. This location is excellent for early and late summer sunrise shots and it can also be nice in the fall.

As you walk along the edge of the river you will notice a clump of bare trees about 150 yards out in the river. Because you have a fairly unobstructed view of the river from this side, you can shoot the rising sun as it clears the horizon on the other side of the Potomac. Using the clump of trees as another point of interest in the photograph, you can produce a more pleasing, balanced composition. A 400 mm lens will allow you to fill the frame (horizontally) with the "tree island" and divide the frame into thirds - 1/3 river, 1/3 opposite shore, and 1/3 sky. You can then adjust your position on the bank of the river so that the rising sun and its reflection in the river occupy one half of the frame and the tree island the other half.

Images can also be made with other focal length lenses, emphasizing or de-emphasizing various aspects of the scene. I've shot this scene over 100 times, during every season of the year. Everyone has been different from the others. Some days the river is calm, and there are mirror-like reflections in the river. Sometimes there are colorful cloud patterns above the horizon. My favorite days are the ones with a heavy mist hanging over the river.

The "tree island" is often covered with cormorants and other birds. They become quite active at daybreak, so slow shutter speeds can be a problem. I try to use exposures no slower than 1/30 of a second.

Haze and mist at sunrise help reduce lens flare and creates interesting moods in your photographs. Haze and mist conditions are most likely to occur on clear to partly cloudy days which follow a day or night of rain or when there has been a sudden change in the air temperature during the night. Of course, the wind must be reasonably calm. Sudden temperature changes are most likely to occur in the spring and fall. The morning fog may take a half hour or more to burn off but during this time there are many opportunities for wonderful mood pictures.

Frederick County, Maryland - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, November 1987

Frederick County, Maryland, offers rich opportunities for photographers. The town of Frederick has plenty of interesting architecture and historic sites. Frederick is easy to reach by taking 1-270 north from Washington. It is about 45 minutes from the beltway. At the **Visitor Information Center** (19 East Church Street, 301-663-8687) you can find plenty of literature on a variety of interesting places. A book of driving tours is available for \$2.00. The Center may not be open weekends, so I recommend that you call ahead and ask that literature be sent to you.

From Frederick, drive north on US-15, to Thurmont. When you come to Maryland route 77 turn left if you would like to visit **Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin Mountain National Park**. I find the falls especially interesting although there are usually crowds of people climbing in and out of your pictures. The problem is less severe on weekdays. Both parks are lovely.

If you had turned right on Maryland route 77 you would find yourself close to two covered bridges. Turn left at the Getty service station just as you are leaving Thurmont to get to the **Roddy Road Covered Bridge** (1856) over Owen's Creek. The bridge is 2 or 3 miles from route 77. To get to **Loys Station Covered Bridge** (1850) return to route 77 and turn left. Go to Old Frederick Road and turn right. The bridge will be a few hundred yards ahead. From the photographic standpoint this is the best bridge to visit. There is a third covered bridge in the county, but it is very difficult to photograph from a good angle.

Consider going north of Thurmont on US-15 to **Ernmitsburg**. The town contains some interesting architecture. Nearby you will find the campus of **Mount St. Mary's College, the Grotto of Lourdes, and the St. Elizabeth Seton Shrines**. If you go a little further north into Pennsylvania, you aren't far from **Gettysburg**.

Returning south on US-15 through Frederick and points west you will come to **Point of Rocks**. Here you can take the trail to the top of the bluff overlooking the Potomac River. The view is nice. See the picturesque old railroad station here.

Frederick County contains many other places of interest to photographers. **Sugarloaf Mountain** provides a nice view of the entire county, but some hiking is required. To get there from Washington, take 1-270 North. Exit on route 109 and drive to the town of Comus. Go right at Comus on route 95 to Sugarloaf Mtn.

From Sugarloaf Mountain you can reach **Lilypons Water Gardens** easily. Take Ephraim Road to Dickerson, right on route 28, right on route 85 two miles, and right on Lilypons Road. The gardens and fish hatchery are one of the world's largest suppliers of exotic fish and aquatic plants. July and August are the best months to visit. Photographers are welcome even with tripods!

Two state parks, **Greenbrier and Gambrill**, are located off US-40 west from Frederick. Both have nice scenery. Gambrill State Park has a lake and beach. If you are hot and tired after all your photography, stop by for a swim! There is more to see along the county's back roads. The people at the Visitor Information Center in Frederick can help you find lots of photographic opportunities.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, December 1987

My pursuit of photographic opportunities has lead me to many interesting places in the Washington area. We are blessed with a wonderful variety, but there is no place I love more than Maryland's Eastern Shore. This month I would like to describe a recent trip which Craig Wineman and I took to some Eastern Shore areas too often neglected by photographers.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge was our first stop. This area is usually visited primarily by people interested in bird watching and bird photography, but there are many opportunities for landscape work and for hiking. The refuge is a marsh which serves as a haven for large numbers of birds. Canada geese, snow geese, tundra swans, and ducks of many kinds winter here and reach peak numbers in late November. In the summer months you will find an abundant supply of common egrets, great blue herons, ducks, ospreys, and many other species of birds.

The refuge has one road through it about 2.5 miles in length. My usual procedure is to drive very slowly through the marsh over and over again as different birds come and go and the light changes constantly. I rarely exceed 5 miles per hour to avoid frightening birds close to the roadway. Most often I shoot from my car bracing the lens on the open window. Special devices can be purchased which allow you to clamp a ball head to your window. This gives you freedom to move the camera and quickly fasten it into position when you are ready to trip the shutter. Cars make an excellent blind, but if others are in the car with you, each person must be very careful not to rock the car. I usually use a 300 mm lens with a 1.4 X teleconverter which allows me to get close enough to many subjects.

It used to be the case that you were not allowed to leave your car, but this restriction is no longer in force. When you leave the car, move slowly to avoid frightening the birds, especially the herons and egrets. Don't slam the door. Use a sturdy tripod, especially if your lens is long and heavy. I like to set up the camera focused on the dead trees in the middle of the marsh. You will often find ospreys perched here and, if you are lucky, you may even get to photograph a bald eagle!

Birds are not the only subject matter of interest in the refuge. You will find interesting landscapes all around you. This is a fine area for sunsets, and macro photographers will find plenty of opportunities for nature photography.

The refuge is open from sunrise to dusk. Early morning, late afternoon, and dusk are the times you will find the greatest numbers of birds in the sanctuary. At the Visitor Center maps and bird lists are available, and the rangers are very helpful. It is worth asking them about special photographic opportunities.

To get to the refuge, take route 50 east, across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. Continue on route 50 to Cambridge, Maryland, where the highway turns toward Ocean City. Continue about two blocks and turn right off route 50 onto Woods Road. (There is a gas station at this intersection.) Woods Road leads very quickly to route 16. You will know you have reached route 16 when you come to the first stop sign. For some reason there is no route 16 marker. Turn right and drive about 5 miles to a Village called Church Creek. Turn left onto route 335 and go about 4 miles. There will be a sign for the refuge pointing left. This is Key Wallace Drive. Turn left here and continue until you see the Visitor Center on the right. For more information, write to: Refuge Manager, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Route 1, Box 121, Cambridge, Maryland, 21613, or call (301) 228-2677).

If you aren't satisfied with the opportunities at Blackwater, or you lack the patience required to photograph birds, you might go next to the town of **Salisbury** located on route 50 between Cambridge and Ocean City. The Salisbury Zoo next to the Civic Center has an excellent collection of waterfowl just waiting to be photographed.

Craig and I headed instead for a small town called **White Haven** where a **cable drawn ferry** still crosses the Wicomico River southwest of Salisbury. The ferry is operated free of charge but, as the sign says, " at your own risk." It did not seem at all dangerous, so we crossed the river to take our pictures from the other side. The afternoon light was ideal from this vantage point. Other subject matter in the area includes an **abandoned ship** called "The Frying Pan." This is the only pink ship I have ever seen!

To get to Whitehaven, take route 50 east toward Salisbury. Turn right on route 347 and go toward Hebron and Quantico. Follow 347 to route 349 and turn left. Go to route 352 and turn right. Follow the sign to Whitehaven onto an unmarked road. Shortly you will see that this is called Whitehaven Road and it takes you right to the dock.

Craig and I stayed on the south side of the Wicomico River and went in search of typical **Chesapeake Bay fishing Villages**. Our final stop of the day was Deale Island, a small island which reminded me of a combination of Tangier Island and Tilghman Island. There are several **interesting churches and cemeteries** here. Parts of the Village resemble a ghost town, while the waterfront area is still home for a **working fleet of skipjacks**. Late afternoon light is ideal here, and the beach is a good place to take sunset pictures. I found a greater variety of photographic opportunities here than I have on Tilghman Island and I look forward to many return visits.

To get to **Deale Island** from Whitehaven drive the Wicomico River: there's only one road. Follow the signs to the town of Princess Anne. Turn right at the sign and go to route 362. Turn left on 362 and drive to Princess Anne. Here you turn right onto route 13 and go to the next light. Turn right on route 363 and follow it to Deal Island. Go all the way to the end of the road.

Craig and I were on the road for about 16 hours. You might want to consider spreading this trip over two days. Whatever you decide, you are in for a treat.

Rural Areas West in Snow- Dave Carter

Fotofax, January 1988

We all recognize the special magic of falling snow. Even the most common of scenes fills one with a feeling of wonder which we all long to capture on film. But most of us are creatures of the city, and by the time we get our camera equipment together and dig the car out from under the snow drifts, the smooth white covering which settled over everything has been trampled by a thousand footprints.

It's time to head for rural areas where the snow remains fresh and landscape opportunities abound. My first destination is often **Sky Meadows State Park** a few miles west of Middleburg, VA. Take route 50 through Middleburg. You will come to route 17 about 5 or 10 miles outside of town. Turn left. It is less than a mile to the park entrance on the right. Sky Meadows State Park contains an old farm built on beautiful rolling hills. The light is especially interesting about 8:00 AM or so. Wander around the old farm buildings or take the hiking trail to the top of one of the hills for a grand vista. The opportunities for landscapes are endless, especially if you get there before the cross country skiers make tracks in the snow.

When you leave the park, turn right and go south on route 17 for a few hundred feet to route 688. Turn right again. Route 688 leads through the Virginia countryside and eventually parallels the Blue Ridge Mountains which may be seen in the distance. You will find nice **red barns, old abandoned farm houses, log cabins, a beautiful old church in the town of Hume**, and many other photographic opportunities. Last January, Jim Sollo and I followed this route and found a tremendous variety of things to shoot. The light changed constantly throughout the day giving us many opportunities to record dramatic landscapes. This was perhaps the best single day of photography I have ever experienced.

Route 688 eventually takes you to route 211, and Jim and I turned right toward the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was too cold and snowy to head for Skyline Drive so we turned left at route 231 near Sperryville and right on route 643. Jim and I continued to find breathtaking scenery, this time around the base of **Old Rag Mountain**. We both recommend these routes highly to anyone interested in wintertime photography. Take plenty of film and a sturdy tripod. It was very windy that day and we had to push our tripods deep into the hard-packed snow bank in order to dampen the vibrations. At one point my tripod was nearly uprooted by the wind and I was almost blown over!

If you prefer to continue along route 211 to **Skyline Drive** you may find some more interesting opportunities for winter photography. Call first (703-999-2243) to make sure that Skyline Drive is open. I usually go south on the Drive. The view from each of the overlooks is worthwhile, but to find the spectacular views, I recommend two hikes if you feel up to tramping through the snow. Take the north entrance to **Skyland Lodge**. Immediately on your right is a parking lot Park here and hike the Stony Man Nature Trail. This trail has two magnificent vistas. About two thirds of the way to the summit is a beautiful view of Old Rag Mountain to the southeast At the summit is an **unusual northern view** of Skyline Drive which allows you to look across the mountain peaks toward Front Royal. There is also a fine view from this point west over the Shenandoah Valley toward Luray and Massanutten Mountain. In my opinion, there is no better view anywhere in the park than the one you will find from Stony Man Summit The trail climbs about 600 feet in half a mile so the hike isn't difficult provided the snow isn't too deep.

The other hike is further south along Skyline Drive. Just past Big Meadows on the left is the parking lot for **Dark Hollow Falls**. The trail is a little steeper than the trail to Stony Man Summit, but the 1.5 mile round trip is worth the effort. The waterfall is about 70 feet high and is one of the most picturesque in the park. Be careful on this trail. Ice on the rocks makes the trip a bit hazardous. The area is lighted directly by the sun in the morning, but it is completely shaded by mid afternoon.

Even if you don't hike, Skyline Drive is worth a winter visit Deer may be seen close to the road, and if are quiet and move slowly you can often approach them closely, and have plenty of time for photography. Ice on the rocks is also a worthy subject for the camera. The best ice is usually found near **Tunnel Overlook**.

If you have never visited any of these places during the winter, dress warmly and give yourself a treat.

Civil War Battlefields - by Jim Dacey & Dave Carter

Fotofax, February 1988

No matter what your interests are, you don't have to stray very far from Washington to find new and exciting subject matter for your camera. Our area is unique, and one of the features which makes it so is the abundance of Civil War Battlefields. Our personal favorite area is **Harpers Ferry, West Virginia**. The great floods contributed to the ultimate survival of the town because the original buildings were abandoned rather than repaired and modernized. In 1955 the National Park Service took over and began restoration of the original structures. Their mission was to restore the town as it had been in 1859 at the time of John Brown's raid. As a result, Harpers Ferry now has the look and feel of a 19th century town.

It is much more than the old architecture that contributes to the charm of Harpers Ferry. More than anything else, the **living history exhibits** and **National Park Service tours** add to the feeling that you have returned to the past. When the Civil War began, Harpers Ferry was the home of an important national armory. The only other armory was in Springfield, Massachusetts. There were none in the southern states. Almost immediately, Confederate soldiers raided the town and removed the machinery necessary for making guns to Richmond. Unlike most Civil War historic sites, Harpers Ferry has been restored not as a battlefield, but as a monument to the economy and way of life common in the middle of the last century. There is much to learn here, and much to photograph: beautiful buildings, interesting people, old ruins, and relics of the Civil War era.

Located at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers at the northern end of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Harpers Ferry is in the middle of scenic splendor.

Wander along the river banks or climb the hill to the site of **Storer College**, a normal school for the education of freed blacks. The college remained in operation until 1955. The best view is from the top of the cliffs across the Potomac River on Maryland Heights. It requires a moderately difficult climb to get there, but you will be rewarded by a panorama overlooking the entire town, both rivers, and the mountains. It is beautiful any time of the year.

To get to Harpers Ferry, take 1-270 north from Washington toward Frederick, Maryland. When you get to Frederick, watch for route 340 west. This takes you right by the entrance to the historic area.

After you have explored Harpers Ferry, visit some of the local battlefields. As one visitor at Manassas was heard to remark, "It's amazing how so many of the Civil War battles took place in national parks!" Take the National Park Service tours conducted by park historians and guides. It helps to learn about the battles before you begin your photography. You will learn so much about what you see and the guides will help you find some of the best spots to make your images.

Manassas Battlefield is easy to reach. Take 1-66 west to route 234 and turn right. The battlefield entrance will be on your right in less than a mile. The park is spread out and it is worth your while to explore some of the out-Of-the-way areas such as the **Stone House**, the **Stone Bridge**, and **Sudley Church**. The original church was destroyed during the second battle of Manassas. It was restored by funds raised mainly by a Yankee veteran. Although the church was not restored to the original design, it is a beautiful structure and well worth your photographic attention. It is definitely a morning shot. Bring a lunch and spend the day.

Antietam Battlefield is located near Sharpsburg, Maryland and was the site of the bloodiest day of fighting of the war. Travel north from Washington, first on 1-270 and then 1-70. Before you get to Hagerstown, take route 34 west toward Sharpsburg and follow the battlefield signs.

At Antietam you can take guided tours by park rangers or take a tape tour in your own car. Both are excellent. There are many photographic opportunities here, both of historic sites and landscapes.

Don't neglect the Shenandoah Valley area, especially **New Market, Virginia**. To get to New Market, take 1-66 west to Gainesville and exit onto route 29 west. Take route 29 west to Warrenton and look for route 211 west. Follow route 211 past Skyline Drive to New Market. Follow the signs to the battlefield. There is a nice restoration and museum here, but what is of greatest photographic interest is the battle reenactment that takes place every Mother's Day. (We recommend a high speed film such as Kodachrome 200. You are likely to need a fairly fast shutter speed as well as some depth of field.) Come very early for the reenactment and take advantage of the opportunity to explore the Union and Confederate encampments. Costumed soldiers are usually happy to cooperate with photographers.

There are many battle reenactments, encampments, and other living history exhibits which take place in our area. Watch for them. Many of them are announced in the Photo Calendar section of Fotofax. They offer unique opportunities to make photographs that convey much that is special about the area in which we live.

Night Photography - by Gary Silverstein

Fotofax, March 1988

Night photography offers the opportunity to view the ordinary in a new light. Common objects, such as a railroad crossing, parking meter, basketball hoop or used car lot take on a novel perspective when illuminated by a lone street light. But all too frequently we leave our camera equipment behind when we venture out after hours. I would therefore like to recommend some local sites for nighttime pictures that tend to be overlooked by photographers.

The Washington area is one of the best classrooms for learning the techniques of night photography. The monuments provide an endless supply of intriguing evening subjects, especially for those who have never used a camera between dusk and dawn. On a week night when it is less crowded, take a camera, tripod, and telephoto lens to the top of the Washington Monument and marvel at how the red and white lines of the rush hour traffic frame the city's buildings and memorials. Although it is not the most relaxed place to practice photography, I have discovered that other visitors will generally grant me a moment of artistic privacy. The Washington Monument is open until midnight during the summer months, and until 5:30 PM from Labor Day to Memorial Day.

One of the city's best kept secrets is the **observation deck atop the Old Post Office**. The tower, which is located at Pennsylvania Avenue and 12th Streets, NW, is scheduled to reopen in April. At dusk, the panorama spans the monuments and Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor, as well as the silhouettes of the Washington Cathedral and National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The wait for the elevator rarely exceeds ten minutes, and there is ample room to set up a tripod. Although hours have not yet been determined, National Park Service staff assure me that the observation deck will be open until at least 8:00 PM, and possibly later in the summer months. The tower will be closed Thursday evenings.

The **Kennedy Center roof terrace** also provides a panoramic view of the city. At night, I have used a telephoto lens and slow shutter speed to frame the Lincoln Memorial with a circle of red and white streaking car lights. This is also a good place to photograph fireworks, the Georgetown and Rosslyn skylines, Washington Harbour, Arlington House and the eternal Flame at Arlington National Cemetery, and the silhouette of the Washington Cathedral at dusk. The roof terrace is open until the evening's shows have concluded. Take the elevators to the terrace level and exit through the sliding doors.

Although the view from the **western terrace of the Capitol Building** is considered to be "traditional," I cannot imagine a more magnificent spot from which to photograph a Washington sunset. Older structures, such as the Smithsonian Castle, National Gallery of Art and the Old Post Office, stand out against the newer buildings along the Rosslyn skyline. Be forewarned that you will need to obtain a permit from the Capitol

Police before you can use a tripod on the Capitol grounds. Anyone can get this permit, but the process takes about 20 minutes and the rule is strictly enforced. For a different perspective, walk down to the **Capitol Reflecting Pool**. As its name suggests, the pool mirrors its neighbors and provides unique sunset and night reflections of the Capitol, Smithsonian Castle and Washington Monument.

All of the **Potomac River bridges** have pedestrian walkways with room for a tripod. My favorite river view is from **Key Bridge** which connects Georgetown and Rosslyn. From the middle of Key Bridge, look west and photograph both the sunset over the Potomac and the silhouette of Georgetown University (the pedestrian walkways in Rosslyn also offer sunset views of Georgetown University and the National Cathedral). To the east, use a slow shutter speed to create night traffic patterns on the Whitehurst Freeway, or shoot down river at the Washington Monument, Watergate Hotel and Kennedy Center. The Roosevelt, Memorial and 14th Street Bridges have the best evening views of the Rosslyn skyline. The Roosevelt Bridge is also good for viewing the Kennedy Center at night.

On the Virginia side of the Potomac River, I enjoy shooting from **Gravelly Point**. This park is situated at the northernmost end of the main runway at National Airport, and offers amazing night shots of planes as they take off and land. At sunset, lug your camera equipment a quarter of a mile or so along the bike path that follows the Potomac River. Just before the 14th Street Bridge is a unique view of the Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial as they rise above the dark silhouette of the Long Bridge (railroad). To get to Gravelly Point, drive north from Alexandria on the George Washington Memorial Parkway and exit on the right side at the boat launching park just beyond the airport (about a half mile before the 14th Street Bridge exit into Washington).

The city's office buildings take on a different look at night. **Washington Harbour**, located on the Georgetown waterfront between 30th and 31st Streets, NW, is a photographer's paradise. When it opened in 1986, the Washington Post offered the following critique:

"Washington Harbour is a wonderfully wacky, bizarre assemblage of columns, curves, battlements, domes, turrets, fountains, bollards, bastions, crescents, terraces, gun emplacements, alleys, promenades, boulevards, piazzas and more columns and columnets, plus too many other fantasies to mention or to describe with the proper degree of delicacy for a family-oriented publication ... It is a movie set in the great tradition of Cecil B. DeMille." At night, Washington Harbour is all of this, and much more.

If you tire of monuments and office buildings, turn your attention to the **city's streets and neighborhoods**. I seek out objects that tend to be ignored in daylight. Neon signs, store windows, statues, park benches and silhouettes of people are all fair game once the sun has set. Since safety is an important concern, travel with a partner and/or stick to the more traveled thoroughfares. King Street in Alexandria, Wisconsin

Avenue around Georgetown and Tenley Circle, and Connecticut Avenue around Dupont Circle, Woodley Park, and Cleveland Park all offer opportunities to suit a variety of photographic interests.

Nighttime photos can be found on almost any street corner. I have snuck around the old train depot in Silver Spring, Maryland, at midnight taking pictures of an abandoned boxcar in the snow (something I do not recommend). I never noticed the statues of Sherman and Hamilton at 15th Street and E Street, NW, until I photographed their silhouettes against the columns of the south side of the US Treasury Building. And I've attracted curious crowds while photographing the Little Tavern on Wisconsin Avenue in Georgetown.

For me, a "picture perfect" night includes either rain, sleet, snow, ice or fog. This is because light adopts a different quality when reflected by snow or filtered through fog. Under these conditions, an ordinary stroll down a neighborhood street should always produce a number of eye-catching and serendipitous photographs.

Spring Wildflowers - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, April 1988

The spring season for wildflowers has begun. In the Washington area we are blessed with a variety of habitats, and this contributes to a wonderful array of flower species available to photographers. Wildflowers grow everywhere, but a few local sites are very special.

In late March or early April I usually make several trips to **Dranesville District Park**. To get there, take the beltway to exit 13 (route 193, Georgetown Pike) and go west. You will come to the upper parking lot on the right within a few hundred yards. Follow the fire road on foot for about half a mile. Go left at the fork in the trail. When you reach an old chimney on your right, you have gone too far. Retrace your steps 50 to 100 yards and you will see a trail on your left. Take this trail. It leads to the Potomac River. The trail forks, and either route is excellent for wildflowers. Bloodroot is abundant on both sides of the gully. Harbinger-of-spring occurs mainly on the left slope. The right slope is a good place to look for round-lobed hepatica, Dutchman's breeches, rue anemone, spring beauties, cut-leaved toothwort, spicebush, and other spring flowers. Be prepared to work on the side of a hill.

In early May I always return to Dranesville Park. Go past the first parking area about 0.2 miles to the lower parking lot on the right. Follow the trail from the parking area until you reach the stream. Turn right at the stream and walk until you come to a wooden foot bridge. Turn right at the bridge and follow a trail through the gully. This is a good area for wildflowers including yellow lady slippers and occasionally a showy orchis. Going straight at the foot bridge takes you to the Potomac where you will find a picturesque waterfall and a variety of typical flood plain flowers. Keep your eyes open throughout the park. This is the right time to look for dogwood, mayapples, wild geraniums, trailing arbutus, and the whorled pogonia.

The second half of April is my favorite time to visit **Turkey Run Park**. Take the beltway to exit 14 and get onto the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Go about 1.9 miles to the Turkey Run exit. The exit road loops to the right and takes you under a bridge. Almost immediately there is a left turn marked "dead end." Enter here and turn into the first parking lot on the left. Hike back to the main road and turn right. Go a few hundred yards along the right side of the road. Look for a trail down into the gully. In this location I usually find bird's eye speedwell and a rather rare flower, golden star. At the bottom of the gully you will come to a stream. Turn right and follow the stream to the Potomac. Follow the river to the left along the flood plain. This is a remarkable area for wildflowers including Virginia bluebells, jack-in-the-pulpit, wild ginger, trout lilies, toadshade, squirrel corn, violets, corn speedwell, spring beauties, and fern fiddleheads.

On the other side of the Potomac, try the **C&O Canal National Historic Park**. Take Canal Road and the George Washington Parkway west past the beltway until you come to a T-intersection. Turn left and go about a mile to Old Angier's Inn. Park in the lot across the road. Cross the canal and hike west along the tow path until the canal widens into a large pond. Go a little further and look for the sign marking the entrance to the Billy Goat Trail. The trail takes you along the flood plain and eventually to the top of the cliffs along Mather Gorge to Great Falls. There are many scenic shots to be taken here as well as a splendid array of wildflowers. I once counted 49 species in bloom at one time! This area is alive with wildflowers throughout the spring. Many of the species seem to be more common here than in other areas. I look for field chickweed, golden alexander, wild blue phlox, moss phlox, wild stonecrop, twinleaf, wood anemone, bluets, Miami mist, violet wood sorrel, plus the usual spring wildflowers typical of the flood plain habitat.

These are my three favorite sites in the immediate area, but other nearby places are also good for wildflower photography. Most notable among them are **Huntley Meadows Park**, **Fern Valley in the National Arboretum**, **Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens**, and in the late summer, **Hughes Hollow** for cardinal flowers and crimson-eyed rose mallows.

Of these additional areas, **Huntley Meadows Park is worthy of special mention**. This wetland area not far outside the beltway contains a variety of habitats including swamp, woodland, and meadow areas. Therefore, there are wildflowers here that you are unlikely to find elsewhere in the Washington area. I've been making a study of the wildflowers that grow here, and this is a special place to come from late spring through autumn. There isn't much here in the early spring that you won't find in the other areas I have discussed.) Some of my favorite species at Huntley Meadows include bluecurls, cardinal flowers, purple gerardia, lizard tail, monkey flowers, jewelweed, button bush, great lobelia, New York ironweed, tickseed sunflowers, common speedwell, larger blue flag, ox-eye daisies, blue-eyed grass, Asiatic dayflowers, partridge peas, turtlehead, swamp rose mallow, smooth false foxglove, downy false foxglove, maddog skullcap, and Maryland golden asters.

There are many other reasons to visit Huntley Meadows. It is an excellent birding area. Mushrooms are plentiful during the late summer and autumn. To get there, take route 1 south past Beacon Mall to Lockheed Blvd. Turn right. Huntley Meadows Park is just a few blocks ahead on the left. If you have questions about wildflowers, ask for Carolyn Gamble at the visitor center.

If you are willing to travel, try the **G. Richard Thompson Area on Blue Mountain**. Take 166 west to the Linden/Front Royal exit. Go left following the signs to route 55 and turn left. Drive into Linden and turn left onto route 638. Go 1 mile to a fork in the road. Stay right at the fork and continue for 2.8 additional miles. Look for a sign on the right reading "Virginia Game Commission-G Richard Thompson Area." The fire road leads to the Appalachian Trail, but the best area for wildflowers is the first 1/4 mile along the road. In early to mid-May the mountain is alive with beautiful large-flowered trillium and other species. Be sure to look on the right side of the road for yellow lady slippers and showy orchis. This is probably the most remarkable area for wildflowers within 100 miles of Washington.

I also enjoy exploring other areas for wildflowers. **Skyline Drive and Big Meadows** in Shenandoah National Park are excellent areas to explore during spring, summer, or fall. I also recommend **Lilypons Farm in Frederick County, Maryland, Massanutten Mountain in Virginia, and both Spruce Knob and Blackwater Falls in West Virginia**.

The best way to get to know the best wildflower areas is to go on guided wildflower walks. The best walks are sponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society. On April 9th, Lillian Lukaczer is leading a wildflower walk at Calmes Neck, Virginia. Calmes Neck is private property along the Shenandoah River and this is your only opportunity to visit a fascinating habitat. The tour lasts all morning and you can spend the afternoon photographing at your leisure. On April 24th, Rob Simpson is leading a trip into the Appalachian Mountains to search for wildflowers, trees, and wildlife. If you have never been on a trip with Rob, your life is incomplete. Rob is not only a wonderful naturalist and teacher, but a nature photographer as well. On May 11th, Chris Fleming will lead an all-day tour of wildflower areas in the Blue Ridge Mountains. This is another trip I recommend highly. The locations will probably be different from those visited by Rob Simpson. Rob is more likely to visit areas on Massanutten Mountain. There is a charge for these tours and reservations are required. For information, call 652-9188.

Even if you don't photograph wildflowers, most of the areas described above offer opportunities for landscapes. If nothing else, go for a walk in the woods and help yourself recover from a long, cold winter.

Living History Farms - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, May 1988

Most of us who have traveled through the countryside of Virginia and Maryland have come to appreciate the beauty of our local farming areas. You may not be aware that there are some interesting working farms where photographers can visit and capture the spirit of America's agricultural heritage.

One of the best is **Oxon Hill Farm** in Maryland. The farm is run by the National Park Service. It is like many farms found in the Maryland and Virginia countryside around Washington at the end of the 19th century. Much of the farm work here is done just as it was then-the family cow is milked by hand and the horse team earns its keep by plowing the fields and hauling wagon loads of corn, wheat, oats, and other things.

There are many things to photograph here-old buildings, farm machinery, animals, and farm activities. You can follow in the footsteps of the farmer as he goes about his everyday chores of caring for the animals and the crops. There is also a nature trail and some interesting views from the hilltop of the Alexandria skyline across the Potomac River.

Oxon Hill Farm, open daily all year, is located near Indian Head Highway off Oxon Hill Road. Use Exit 3A from the Capital Beltway (1-95). The map included here will make the farm easy to find. Call 839-1176 for more information or for brochures, as well as the visiting hours. You can also call 839-1177 for a taped message on the month's activities.

You might also be interested in visiting the **National Colonial Farm**. The farm is a recreation of a middle class, Southern Maryland tobacco plantation of the mid eighteenth century. Open daily except Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day, the farm offers much of interest to photographers. In addition, there is a lovely view of Mt. Vernon across the Potomac River.

To get to the National Colonial Farm, take exit 3A (Indian Head Highway) from the Beltway. Go south on Maryland route 210 about 10 miles. Turn right at Livingston Road (at the B&J Carryout). Don't get confused. Route 210 crosses Livingston Road twice. Make your turn the second time you cross it. Go one block, turn right onto Biddle Road, then take an immediate left onto Bryan Point Road. Follow Bryan Point Road for 4 miles to the parking lot on the right. The signs are very clear. For information, call 283-2113.

You might also enjoy a visit to **The Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run**. The farm demonstrates a typical small-scale, low income homestead in Northern Virginia during the late colonial period. Agricultural and household activities seen on the farm today were of vital importance to a poor tenant farmer two centuries ago. The
Copyright 2008. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced or copied in any manner whatsoever. 40

farmer's property includes approximately 100 acres of land, twelve of which are farmed with corn, tobacco, wheat, kitchen gardens and an orchard. The fields are tilled, planted and cultivated by hand, applying basic principles of hoe agriculture. The farmer allows his livestock to roam freely, protecting valuable crops with split-rail and pale fencing. The small log house is used as the family dwelling where meals are prepared over the hearth from food raised on the farm. Clothing, furniture, tools and equipment used by the farm family are reproductions of 18th century artifacts. From the Beltway, take exit 13 (route 193-Georgetown Pike) toward Washington.

Every summer, there is an opportunity to visit a variety of real farms. The state of Maryland sponsors Farm Visitation Day. Call 410-638-3339 for this year's dates and a list of farms open to visitors.

Horsehead Sanctuary - by Bill Dunn

Fotofax, May 1988

Horsehead Sanctuary is located on the Eastern Shore near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, a few miles from route 50. This 310 acre wildlife sanctuary has six distinct marshland habitats on the preserve. All of the migrating waterfowl and herons seen on the Bay and most shorebird species have been sighted here. Endangered southern bald eagles nest nearby and are regularly observed hunting. A herd of white-tailed deer can be watched from a short distance. Muskrat, river otter, and red fox also abound. Specially designed blinds and natural screening allow visitors a unique opportunity to walk along trails near the water area observing (and photographing) the wildlife-particularly the waterfowl-without disturbing them.

At present, visitors are welcome to the sanctuary on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. There is an admission charge of \$2.00 per adult and 50 cents per child. See the map for directions, follow signs to the parking lot, proceed to the office (a mobile home adjacent to the parking lot), sign in, and ENJOY! Horsehead Sanctuary is shown on the map as the Wildfowl Trust of North America. Mr. Ben Hren is the resident general manager of the sanctuary and you may have an opportunity to meet this congenial conservationist who can provide you with up to the minute information as to "what's where."

Cape May, New Jersey - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, September 1988

The town of Cape May, New Jersey, is well known to photographers for its picturesque Victorian architecture, fine ocean resorts, and numerous festivals held throughout the year. Cape May has more than 600 authentic 19th-century buildings, many painted with bright colors. The town also has a Victorian shopping mall complete with parking meters which are in effect until 10:00 PM. Many birds are attracted to the area by its sand dunes, marshes and holly woods. Approximately 400

species have been seen in the region. The Cape May Bird Observatory holds an annual hawk watch from Mid-August to mid-November which encompasses the peak of the hawk migration.

Cape May is located at the southern end of a chain of barrier islands stretching north about 40 miles to Atlantic City. Along the way you will find scenic beaches, charming fishing villages, and wildlife sanctuaries. You are never far from water making it possible to photograph the sun rising over the Atlantic Ocean and the sun setting over the sounds and bays which separate the islands from the mainland.

Be sure to visit Cape May Point State Park. Cape May Point Lighthouse is the oldest lighthouse still in use by the U.S. Coast Guard for navigational purposes. The present structure was built in 1859. It rises 165 feet above the beach. Also at Cape May Point are the sunken remains of the experimental concrete ship, Atlantis. This historic site lies at the foot of Sunset Boulevard in Cape May Point. The attempt to replace steel with concrete in shipbuilding was a failure. Another wreck of an even earlier ship can also be seen in this area. The British Sloop of War, Martin, which blockaded Delaware Bay during the War of 1812, was discovered beached in the sand in 1954. Salvaged and mounted on the beach at the bottom of Lighthouse Avenue for the public to see, the Martin again stands watch over the Bay. On the road to Cape May Point there is a Nature Conservancy sanctuary where some endangered species nest during the spring. Watch for the sanctuary on the left side of the road.

The Cape May area is a haven for nature lovers. There are three bird sanctuaries located on Cape May: Stone Harbor, Lily Lake, and Bennett Bog. The only one I have visited is Stone Harbor. Black crown night herons, glossy ibis, and egrets are common in this rookery. However, I was disappointed to find that it is surrounded by a tall hedge making photography difficult unless you have a very long lens.

You might prefer to visit Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge located 11 miles north of Atlantic City. Two fresh water impoundments are surrounded by 8 miles of dikes permitting easy viewing of wildlife. Spectacular concentrations of waterfowl occur from late October through November. Photographic opportunities are available from your car, from two observation towers, or from three photo blinds. Permits are required to use the blinds. They can be obtained on the day of your visit or in advance by contacting Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, Great Creek Road, PO Box 72, Oceanville, NJ, 08231, (609) 652-1665. Take the auto tour route around the West Pool and the East Pool where you can observe the wildlife at special points marked by "Tour Stop" signs. Ascend the observation tower for a panoramic view. You can walk the half-mile Leeds Eco-Trail and stop at each of 20 stations. Have insect repellent handy, especially during the summer or fall. Take route 9 north from Cape May to Oceanville and enter the refuge.

Stretching for 2000 square miles, the Pine Barrens are a vast region of sandy pine and oak forests, dense cedar swamps, quiet streams, and bright green bogs brilliant with orchids and other wildflowers. Good starting points for explorations are Lebanon

State Forest, Wharton State Forest, or Bass River State Forest. But be careful. Something is said to lurk deep in the eerie Pine Barrens, the famous Jersey Devil!

The Devil is said to have been born in 1735 near Leeds Point, a humid backwater just ten miles from the casinos of Atlantic City. Whether you decide it's animal, demon or merely legend, be sure you're out of the woods by dark. You can reach Wharton State Forest easily from the Brigantine Refuge. Continue north on route 9 to New Gretna. Turn left onto route 542 which takes you into the park. Continue north on route 563 toward Lebanon State Forest. Route 563 dead ends at route 72. Turn left here and drive toward route 70. The forest entrance is one mile east of the junction of routes 70 and 72 at Four Mile Circle. Bass River State Forest is located just north of the Brigantine Refuge and is bisected by the Garden State Parkway. For more information on the Pine Barrens contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, CN 400, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

If you prefer to stick to the coastal areas and find yourself in Atlantic City, continue north on route 9 to route 72. Turn right and drive to Ship Bottom on a long barrier island.

From Ship Boltom travel either north or south along the Atlantic Ocean.

If you take the land route home, take route 9 north and pick up route 47. Take route 47 to route 49 and drive west to the Delaware Memorial Bridge. You will pass through Bridgeton. From this point you might enjoy a short detour south to Greenwich, a very old Village on the Cohansey River. The detour is about 6 miles. Routes 9, 47 and 49 roughly parallel the Delaware River where you will find many wildlife management areas. Fred Siskind recommends two areas not far from Cape May, Reeds Beach and Moores Beach. Vast numbers of birds are attracted to these areas in the spring when the horseshoe crabs lay their eggs. Neither of us knows what birds you will find here at other times of the year.

There is a great variety of things to do in the Cape May area, and I hope that many of you will attend our fall weekend field trip. This is an especially good opportunity for new members to become involved with club activities. For more information on the Cape May area, call the Cape May chamber of Commerce, (609) 888-5508.

To get to Cape May, take route 50 across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. Continue on route 50 until it intersects with route 404. You will find the intersection just past the point where route 50 turns south toward Easton. Take 404 east into Delaware. Route joins 16 near the town of Denton. Stay on 16 until it intersects with route 1.

Take 1 southeast (a right turn) to route 9. Turn onto 9 which takes you east into Lewes, Delaware. Here you catch the Cape May Ferry. Be sure you don't arrive in Lewes too late to catch the boat. According to the 1988 ferry schedule, the last ferry leaves Lewes for Cape May at 10:30 PM and the last ferry leaves Cape May for

Lewes at 8:30 PM seven days a week from September 13th through November 13th. If I were you I would double check the schedule to make sure that it hasn't changed.

If you get sea sick, try the land route. Take 1-95 north across the Delaware Memorial Bridge. Do not get on the New Jersey Turnpike. Instead, take route 49 southeast to route 55. Turn south on 55. Route 55 becomes 47. Take 47 until it runs into route 9. Take 9 South into Cape May. I am told that the first route is faster and more scenic.

Lancaster County - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, October 1988

One of the most enjoyable club field trips I have taken was to Lancaster County in Pennsylvania, home of the Amish people who live today as their ancestors did in the 17th century. There is a charm to the area that is unlike any other place I have ever been.

I suspect that many photographers are not attracted to Lancaster County because the Amish people do not allow themselves to be photographed. They have such a strong sense of community that they do not want to be singled out by appearing in a photograph. The Amish also consider a photograph of a person to be a graven image. This does not mean that you will get no pictures of the people. They seem not to mind being photographed at work in the fields provided that their faces do not show. You will probably not find it difficult to get some grab shots or even some candid. It is sometimes easier to photograph Amish children than adults because technically the children are not yet members of the church. Although many children avoid photographers, a few are willing to pose. My recommendation is that you do nothing to make the Amish feel uncomfortable. What you get in the way of photographs will depend on how much effort you are willing to expend and on your sense of what is ethical and what is not. You might get some ideas for people pictures that can be taken unobtrusively by looking at local post cards.

Lancaster County has much to offer even to the photographer who prefers not to take pictures of the Amish. There are marvelous landscapes along the back roads, beautiful farms, spectacular sunrises and sunsets, old mills, covered bridges, old-time railroads, and much more. I suggest that you avoid most of the commercial areas and become familiar with the back roads before you do anything else. First, I would recommend a good map. By far the best map to get is the 67 page atlas of section maps entitled Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Street Map published by ADC of Alexandria, Virginia. (The atlas is essential if you are searching for covered bridges.) It is available at most convenience stores.

There is also an audio tape tour which can be rented or purchased. It is called "**Amish Country: Lancaster-Pennsylvania Dutch Country Circle Tour**" produced by CC Auto Tape Tours, Inc. This tape provides an excellent introduction to the area and comes with a useful map of the route. Other companies sell tape tours, including one of covered bridges. They are definitely not worth the money. The good tape may be

hard to find unless you visit Dutch Wonderland (route 30 east), Holiday Inn East (Route 30 bypass at Hempstead Road) or the National Wax Museum (route 30 east). If you prefer to order the tape by mail, call CC Auto Tape Tours at (914) 472-5133 or write to them at P.O. Box 385, Scarsdale, New York 10583.

Here is an interesting route through the back roads. I love to drive the first half of this tour over and over watching the **landscapes and farm scenes as they are altered by the changing light**. Watch for unexpected opportunities such as an Amish horse and buggy, farmers working in the fields, or perhaps on Sunday morning a collection of buggies around an Amish home. (The Amish worship in their own homes rather than in churches.) Drive east from the village of Bird-in-Hand and turn left at North Harvest Road. (Amos & Kauffman's market is located on the left at that intersection.) Go about 100 to 200 yards and look to the right. The sun rising over the distant farms has provided some of the best shooting I have had in Lancaster County. Each morning is different, but I am especially fond of the hazy autumn sunrises. Just past this point note the elaborate water wheel on the right. It is located at the first farm that is close to the road. The wheel drives five pumps.

Continue on North Harvest Road to Weavertown Road and turn left. Immediately after the turn look for a **beautiful farm** on your right with all white buildings. This is a typical three-generation Amish farm. Amish farms are very prosperous. The Amish probably get more yield per acre than any other farmers in the country.

Follow Weavertown Road to Church Road. You will pass an interesting **Mennonite Church** on the right. The church and its cemetery are worth a stop. Church Road ends at Beechdale Road. Turn right here and drive to Gibbons Road which veers off to the right. Turn right at Stumptown Road and continue until you come to the **Mascot Grist Mill** on your right. This mill has been in continuous operation since 1760. The building next to the mill has an interesting Hex sign typical of many Pennsylvania barns. Hex signs are not Amish and it is probably the only one you will see on this tour. The Amish barn across the road from the mill is very close to the road and I found it to be especially photogenic.

Continue on Stumptown Road to East Eby Road and turn right. Shortly you will see a typical **Amish cemetery** on the left. About 0.2 miles beyond the cemetery turn right on Hess Road. Go 1.6 miles to Newport Road (route 772) and turn left. This takes you to the country village of **Intercourse**. When I am doing my continuous circle looking for pictures I usually turn right on route 340 and return to make a right on North Harvest Road. However, for the complete tour, turn left on route 340 and drive through town. (Some of the film, "Witness", with Harrison Ford was shot here.) Look for a fork in the road at what used to be the Intercourse Bank and stay to the right. Very quickly you will turn right on Queen Road, go 0.4 miles to Harvest Drive and turn right, and then make a left on Belmont Road. Belmont Road takes you to route 30. Before you come to route 30 you will cross a **typical covered bridge**. Continue for another 0.6 miles and turn right on route 30 (the Lincoln Highway). Go 3.4 miles to a traffic light and turn left on South Ronks Road. This road takes you to Strasburg. You will cross the tracks

of the famous **Strasburg Railroad**, a steam-operated train that is fun to photograph. You can take a train ride through Amish country if you wish. At this point you will also see the Red Caboose Motel on the left. Each room is a real caboose. There is an old fashioned wood stove in each unit. Open the stove door and you will find a television set! It's tacky but fun.

Cross the tracks and turn right on route 741. On the right is the Strasburg railroad station and on the left is an interesting railroad museum. Continue on route 741 to the traffic light in the center of town. Turn right at the light onto route 896 north. This takes you back to route 30 from which you can return to your starting point.

This tour takes you through the heart of the Amish area, but there is more to see in Lancaster County. One can search endlessly for the **perfect covered bridge**. My personal favorite is west of Lancaster on Seigrist Road (see the lower left corner of map 27 in the ADC atlas). Other favorites include a **bridge off Frogtown Road** (see the lower part of section map 48) and the **covered bridge in the Pequea Recreation Area** (section map 54). The **best autumn colors** I have seen in Lancaster County have been near the town of Manheim and in the hills along the Susquehanna River in the southern portion of the county. It is also interesting to explore the rural area along route 80 west of Unionville.

Lancaster County can serve as a good base of operations for exploring adjacent counties. You might travel east to see the 350 acres of flowers at Longwood Gardens at Kennett Square on route 1. No tripods are allowed. I have never taken a side trip north to Bucks County. I am told that this is the place to find **barns with Hex signs**, particularly along old route 22 from Bethel to Allentown.

If you haven't been to Lancaster County, I highly recommend the trip. Even if you have been there you are likely to find something you haven't seen before. Most of my Lancaster pictures have been taken in the autumn season, but I am especially anxious to photograph the countryside covered with snow.

To reach Lancaster, drive north toward Baltimore, but bypass the city by going west on the Baltimore beltway (1-695). Exit on 1-83 and continue north into Pennsylvania. Get off the interstate highway at York and take route 30 East into Lancaster. The driving time is roughly 2 hours. For information on Lancaster County, contact the Pennsylvania Dutch Visitors Bureau, 1799 Hempstead Road, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601, (717) 299-8901.

Chincoteague - by Dave Carter

Fototax, November, 1988

One of the most interesting natural areas within a day's drive of Washington is the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge located on Assateague Island. Assateague is a barrier island stretching from Ocean City, Maryland, south into Virginia. On the northern end of the island is Assateague State Park. On the southern end of the island

Copyright 2008. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced or copied in any manner whatsoever. 46

is the wildlife refuge which is the primary subject of this column. The entire eastern side of Assateague, more than 30 miles in length, is a wild beach bordering on the Atlantic Ocean. It is a fine place for a walk with a camera for anyone who enjoys photographing seascapes. Perhaps, if you are lucky, you will find people on the beach flying colorful, multiple-unit kites. Chincoteague attracts not only naturalists and photographers, but also lovers of seafood. Surf fishing is a popular activity. Crabbing is a frequent pastime in the marshes of the refuge and you can dig for clams in Tom's Cove at the southern tip of the island.

A road crosses the refuge from the town of Chincoteague to the ocean beach. This route covers a rather varied landscape which includes marshes, meadows, and forests of loblolly pine. Scenic shots can be especially nice at sunrise or sunset with large, V-shaped formations of geese silhouetted against the sky. You might also try photographing the sunset from the bridge over Assateague Channel. Morning fog is not an uncommon feature of the landscape. Under these circumstances be sure to open up one stop.

The greatest attraction in the refuge is the wildlife. Birds abound and, in spite of the fact that portable blinds are not permitted, it is often possible to get closer to the birds here than at most other refuges. There is a ditch along the road where you will find great blue herons and common egrets fishing. Park your car 100 feet or so away from the bird and don't slam the car door. If you move slowly and quietly you can often move closer, set up the tripod, and take the time to compose your shot carefully. This area is especially nice just after sunrise because the birds can often be photographed with rim lighting. Also watch for double crested cormorants on logs sunning themselves with outstretched wings. Other common birds include both Canada and snow geese, swans, glossy ibis, several kinds of ducks and herons, and many smaller birds. The official refuge bird list contains the names of 307 species observed in Chincoteague.

Many of these birds are seasonal residents and it helps to know before your visit what you can expect to find. Waterfowl, both ducks and geese, are present in great numbers from October through March. Hawks are found most often in September and October. Look for herons in April through October and cormorants in March through May and again in September through November. Warblers pass this way in May and June and again in August through October. You are most likely to find the glossy ibis from March through mid-September. Look for grebes from October through May. Fierce mosquitoes are in great abundance from mid-May until the first frost, usually in October. Be sure to take insect repellent!

Birds are not the only popular wildlife. Assateague Island is the home of a herd of wild ponies. Sometimes they are seen only at a distance, but at other times they are bold and block the road. If you have your car window open, the ponies will sometimes stick their heads right into your car looking for handouts. Be careful of the ponies and don't feed them. They can bite and kick, and they are quite adept at scattering campers by

stampeding through camp. They knock down tents and kick open ice chests looking for food.

The origin of the ponies is something of a mystery. One popular legend tells how they swam to Assateague Island from a stranded Spanish galleon. It is more likely, however, that they are descendants of colonial horses that were driven onto the barrier islands in the 17th century to avoid taxation and the need to build fences. Whatever their origin, they are fun to watch. One of the best places to see them is in the marshes near the Pony Trail observation platform. The ponies in the refuge are owned by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. On the last Wednesday in July firemen round up the ponies and herd them across Assateague Channel to the town of Chincoteague. The next day, some of the ponies are sold at auction to support the fire department. The other ponies are checked for health problems and released. The "pony swim" across the channel draws thousands of tourists every year. If you plan to attend, get your motel reservations several months ahead of time.

Other mammals live in Chincoteague too. Both white tail deer and Sika deer (really an elk) are seen frequently. The Sika deer are especially easy to approach, almost as easy as the ponies. Other mammals, such as the red fox, raccoon, and the endangered Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel, are seen less often.

Don't neglect the trails. **Wildlife Drive** is actually a road loop that is open to vehicles from 3:00 PM until dusk. Early in the day it is used by hikers and birds are plentiful in the marshes along the drive. The drive is open to automobiles all day during Thanksgiving week along with the service road to **Wash Flats**, an excellent place to observe birds provided there is water in the impoundment. Other woodland trails are for hikers only. One of the best routes leads to **Assateague Lighthouse**. The bright red lighthouse against the deep blue sky is a beautiful sight indeed.

Between Assateague Island and the mainland lies **Chincoteague Island** and the town of Chincoteague. The town is a fishing village which is worth exploring, especially at Christmas time when the outdoor decorations are in place. It is the home port for a commercial fishing fleet and there are several good places to stay. Club members have had especially good things to say about the Island Motor Inn (bring your own travel alarm) and dinner at the Pony Pines Restaurant is a must.

To get to Chincoteague, take route 50 across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to Salisbury and turn south on route 13. Not far past the Virginia border, take route 175 east to Chincoteague. Then left at the main street and then right at the sign for the refuge. The driving time is about 4 hours.

If you don't get your fill of bird photography at the Chincoteague Refuge, stop in Salisbury on the way home and visit the **Salisbury Zoo**. They have an interesting waterfowl collection as well as other animals.

To get more information about the Chincoteague area, contact the Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 258, Chincoteague Island, Virginia, 23336 (804-336-6161) or Refuge Manager, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 62, Chincoteague, Virginia, 23336 (804-336-6122). If you have a Golden Eagle Pass issued by the National Park Service, admission to the refuge costs nothing additional. Otherwise, you can get in for a few dollars, and receive a pass good for one week.

Blue Ridge Parkway - by Dave Carter and Jim Sollo

Fotofax, December 1988

The Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park is familiar territory to most Washington area photographers. The Drive begins about 80 miles west of Washington, at Front Royal, Virginia, and extends 105 miles south straddling the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains with lovely views on both sides.

The mountains further south are less familiar to Washington residents, and they are well worth frequent visits. Where Skyline Drive ends at Rockfish Gap the traveler can cross I-64 and enter immediately the **Blue Ridge Parkway**, a scenic highway stretching 469 miles south west all the way to the Smoky Mountains. The mountains are higher here and most of the distant views are of other mountains rather than of valleys. The Blue Ridge Parkway rises and falls in elevation giving it a rich variety of scenery as well as flora and fauna. Wildflowers are abundant. Especially spectacular are the dogwoods and flame azaleas in May and the Catawba rhododendrons and mountain laurel in June.

The Parkway passes through the farmlands of Virginia and North Carolina. There is a constant feeling of being in another time. Along the way you will find old **log cabins**, farms preserved by the National Park Service, and an **old mill**. Seasonal changes are dramatic, and unless the weather is hazardous, there is no bad time to visit this area.

There are convenient places to spend the night in Roanoke, about 115 miles down the Parkway, or in Asheville, about 277 miles further. There are also accommodations along the Parkway at The Peaks of Otter at milepost 85.6. The lodge is open all year.

One of the first places to stop is just past milepost 5 at **Humpback Rocks**. There is a lovely, **rustic farm homestead** here which offers the opportunity to photograph this historic home in a beautiful wooded setting. Late spring and fall are great times to be here.

A brief detour, just past milepost 27, will permit a photographer to shoot a variety of **waterfalls and cascades**. Go left (east) on route 56 toward Amherst. The road meanders through some lovely rural countryside. Go about 5 miles to a parking area on the right for the **United States Forest Service Picnic Area-Crabtree Falls**, said to be the highest falls east of the Mississippi. This is not to be confused with the Crabtree Falls to be encountered later in North Carolina. Cross the small creek and hike about 50 yards into the woods to the base of the first cascade. Crabtree Falls

consists of dozens of cascades which crash down the mountainside. A trail leads up an extremely steep path along the cascades. One could spend hours here.

At mile 74.7, visit Thunder Ridge where you will find an 8-minute trail to a popular **view of Arnold Valley**. The slopes are purple with rhododendron in early June. Five miles beyond at Onion Mountain is another loop trail which is perfect for viewing rhododendron and mountain laurel. At mile 83.4 you will find **Falling Water Cascades**.

If you decide to stay overnight in Roanoke, **Roanoke Mountain**, at milepost 120, is a nice place to shoot the sunset. There is a one-way road on your left (east) winding up about 2 miles to a nice overlook above the city. You can shoot the sun setting across the Roanoke Valley. Continuing down the Parkway to milepost 122, one can take route 220 into Roanoke. There are several good motels on this route, just a few miles off the Parkway.

If you stay overnight in Roanoke, and are an early riser, there are some very nice places to shoot the sunrise from the Parkway, south of Roanoke. **Cahas Mountain Overlook** (at milepost 133), **Devils Backbone** (at milepost 144), **Smart View** (at milepost 154) and **the Saddle** (at milepost 168) all give good views to the east. You can shoot the rising sun as it appears, usually through haze, above the soft blue ridges on the eastern horizon. If you are here in May, look for flame azaleas on the plateau around milepost 165. Here they range from yellow to deep red.

Continuing down the Parkway, a stop at **Mabry Mill** (at milepost 176) is a must. (Sollo claims it is the most, photogenic mill setting in the country, maybe even the world!) The mill is in a most idyllic setting. Just off the parkway and partially protected by trees (which are very colorful in autumn) the old wooden mill with its shale shingle roof is beautiful in early morning light. The millpond in front of the mill is often still in the early morning permitting the photographer to shoot a mirror image of the mill. This is one of the mid-Atlantic region's most famous photographic cliches, so be careful. Try to find a fresh angle or approach to the subject.) The pond comes equipped with a small supply of ducks. Usually they jump into the pond just when you are ready to shoot the reflection, so watch the little critters carefully. Actually, the scene is so like a still life, that the ducks can add a "disturbing" sense of reality to the place. Another reason for getting here right after sunrise (or in the early morning) is that this is one of the most popular stops on the Parkway. Early in the morning you are less likely to have other visitors walk into your picture.

The mill is still in operation and you can buy flour from its gristmill in the little store at the Visitors' Center. Better yet, stop in for a delicious meal at the restaurant. Breakfast with pancakes made from the mill's flour is wonderful.

Entering North Carolina (about milepost 216), you will find the mountain country higher and more sparsely settled. Rolling bluegrass pastures terminate in precipitous bluffs. Rhododendron blooms through **Doughton Park** (miles 238.5 to 244.7) in early

June. At **Flat Rock** (milepost 308.3) take the trail to a superb **view of Grandfather Mountain and Linville Valley. Linville Falls** (mile 316.5) is probably not worth a stop. The falls consists of a few short cascades on the Linville River and there are frequently so many visitors in the area that it is nearly impossible to make a photograph without people.

On the other hand, a stop at **Crabtree Falls** (milepost 339) is definitely worthwhile. Drive into the Crabtree Meadows Campground (on the right) and park. The trail to the falls starts at the end of the parking area, opposite the ranger station.

Around mile 342, three miles past Crabtree Meadows, the Black Mountains dominate the horizon. **Mount Mitchell** (elevation 6684 feet) is the highest in the East.

With superb western views, **Craggy Gardens** (miles 363.4 to 369.6) is also a very nice place to shoot the sunset. However, you should plan to be at this overlook at least 45 minutes before sunset because the sun often sinks into a blue haze about 30 to 40 minutes before it would actually set behind the ridges on the western horizon. Craggy Gardens is also an outstanding place to view the purple rhododendron in mid-June. There is a self-guiding nature trail at the Visitor Center.

Asheville, at milepost 383, on almost everyone's list of the 10 "best" cities in the United States, is the recommended place for overnight lodging. There are several good motels west of the Parkway (toward the city) off route 70. Asheville is a beautiful city, nestled in the Smoky Mountains and surrounded by the Pisgah National Forest.

Asheville's major attraction is the famous **Biltmore Estate**, the largest home (275 rooms) in the country. Tours of the house, gardens and winery are expensive-\$25-but it is as close to a European estate as you can get without leaving the country. The brochures and guidebooks say the estate opens at 9:00 AM but the wisest tourists get to the entrance by 8:15 or 8:30. Getting in early gets you a shady parking spot close to the house. (if you come after 10:00 AM on the weekend or a holiday, be prepared to walk about a half mile from the overflow parking lot.)

Pictures are not permitted within the house but it is certainly worth a look. Everything inside is on a huge scale. The rooms and furnishings are mammoth. Even though you can't take pictures inside the house, the gardens and grounds offer endless possibilities. The grounds encompass one of the largest rose gardens in the country. Head for the gardens first, before the tourists arrive, and while there is still dew on some of the roses.) The garden is slavishly attended by a small army of caretakers and contains dozens of varieties of roses of every color. It also contains a variety of other flowers.

The grounds contain many types of trees and fauna as well as ponds (with assorted ducks and geese). As you drive out of the garden area, the road leads behind the house. On your left is a small lake which parallels the road. There is a dirt trail off the exit road around this lake. Take this trail for an excellent view of the back of the mansion. This is also an idyllic setting for a picnic. From here you can return to the

main (exit) road which leads past the estate winery. An interesting tour of the winery is available and the house wines are quite good.

Returning to the Parkway, and continuing to milepost 431, you might explore the self-guiding trail through the Canadian-type, spruce-fir forests on **Richland Balsam**. At mile 451.2 from **Waterrock Knob** you will find a loop trail which offers a 360 degree view of the Southern Highlands including a superb panorama of the Great Smoky Mountains.

No matter where you stop along the Blue Ridge Parkway, you will find plenty to photograph. It is truly the perfect gateway to the Smoky Mountain National Park. Far too often travelers neglect this route because the speed limit is never higher than 45 miles per hour. One word of caution is necessary if you plan to drive any part of this route late at night. **Gasoline will be hard to find**. For additional information, write to Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway, 700 Northwestern Bank Building, Asheville, NC, 28801.

Smoky Mountain National Park - by Jim Sollo

Fotofax, January 1989

The Great Smoky Mountain National Park is one of the nation's most beautiful nature areas. The park is roughly divided between North Carolina and Tennessee. Sixteen of its mountains rise more than 6000 feet. Rhododendron and flame azaleas border the hundreds of streams and cover the bald, treeless rounded mountain tops of uncertain origin. Dogwood trees and wildflowers bloom in profusion throughout the park. But the park offers more than nature. Restored historic cabins and other buildings help contemporary visitors appreciate the fortitude exhibited by the earlier settlers who scratched out a hard-won subsistence from the land.

The Great Smoky Mountain National Park is the most visited national park in the country. Plan your visit and make reservations well in advance, particularly during the traditional summer vacation months, or when the dogwoods begin to bloom in early May, or during the colorful fall foliage which begins to display peak colors in late September and early October.

From Washington there are two approaches to the Smoky Mountains, one from the Tennessee side, off interstates 81 and 40 (or route 441) and one from the North Carolina side. I will describe an approach to the photography from the North Carolina section of the park.

My suggested location for lodging on the North Carolina side of the Smokies is **Bryson City** where there are several average quality motels and a few good restaurants. The main reason for staying here is its access to the **Deep Creek** area. In the morning, follow the signs from the main intersection downtown, north to the Deep Creek campground. Drive to the far end of the parking lot. Park and follow the

trailhead that begins here for **Toms Branch Falls**. The hike is about a quarter of a mile.

The falls tumble about 80 feet down the side of a rock cliff in a series of short cascades, tumbling between trees and foliage. For this reason, it is one of the most unique waterfalls in the park and interesting shots can be made of the entire length of the falls or of various segments as the water crashes down into Deep Creek. The falls face west so they are entirely in shadows in the early morning, perfect for lovely, evenly illuminated shots. There are two other waterfalls within a mile of Toms Branch Falls-Indian Creek Falls and Juneywhank Falls, but neither is nearly as photographically interesting as the falls I have just described.

Return to Bryson City and take route 441 ten miles northeast into **Cherokee**. Cherokee's main street (route 441) is a hodgepodge of motels and restaurants and trinket shops. Here you could do a photo essay on the sad state of American tourism.

Continuing through town and into the national park area, the first road on your right is Big Cove Road. Follow this road about 5 miles to the Mingo Falls Campground on the right. Pull into the parking area designated for **Mingo Falls**. It is a short (1/3 mile) but very steep hike to the base of the falls. Mingo Falls cascades down about 120 feet in one long drop. (However, due to generally dry weather the last few years, the falls have not been quite as spectacular as they normally are.) The small dilapidated bridge across the creek at the base of the falls is a good place from which to shoot the long cascade or to do close-ups of Mingo Creek. It is important to get here fairly early in the morning because the sun soon comes over the ridge on the southeast creating splotchy, contrasty light on the falls and surrounding foliage. As you return back down the trail to your car, you might explore the side trails along Mingo Creek. The creek has many small cascades that glide over moss-covered rocks surrounded by a profusion of rhododendron.

Next, drive back toward Cherokee on Big Cave Road. When you get to route 441, turn right (north) and continue into the park. Within a mile the road intersects the Blue Ridge Parkway. Stay on route 441. Two miles further, the **Oconaluftee Visitors Center** will come into view on the right. The Visitors Center has a replica of a typical Smokies homestead. Unless you chose to do some close ups of the individual buildings, the best place to shoot the entire homestead may be from route 441, before you actually get to the parking lot at the Visitors Center. There is a wide field between route 441 and the homestead, and it provides a realistic setting for scenic shots.

If you continue on route 441 (now called Newfound Gap Road) for about 4 miles, you will come to Smokernount Campground on your right. Drive into the campground to the far end of the parking lot. **Chasteen Creek Trail** begins here. It is about a one mile hike across meadows and through virgin forest before you hear the gurgling rush of Chasteen Creek. The creek is narrow-only about 5 feet wide, but it tumbles around and over a beautiful array of moss covered rocks for about a half mile. Azaleas and rhododendron are profuse in this area.

Return to your car and continue Northwest on route 441 (Newfound Gap Road) toward Tennessee. The road begins to climb steeply through a beautiful forest of spruce and fir. There are many pullouts (which make great picnic spots) and dozens of hiking trails. Anyone of them offers the possibility of great nature photography.

Drive carefully! Before, during and after rainstorms the area can become extremely foggy. Road conditions can be hazardous and visibility can drop to a few feet. In addition, the road is famous for "bear jams" created by tourists who tend to stop in the middle of the road and gawk at the bears that frequent this area. This is very dangerous because the road is narrow and it is usually unsafe to pass the "jammers." Traffic backs up quickly and it is common to have a line of stopped traffic over a mile long caused by one discourteous tourist!

Please do not feed the bears. It may be hazardous to your health, and it will probably harm the bears. Furthermore, once a bear associates humans with food, it creates dangers for wilderness hikers who happen upon a bear. Play it safe for your own sake and for the sake of others. Don't feed any of the wild animals in the park.

Newfound Gap Road continues to climb for about 10 more miles, past the Smokemount Campground to the intersection with Clingman's Dome Road. Just before this intersection, there are **large pullouts on the right with spectacular views** to the east. Row after row of blue ridges fall away as far as the eye can see. This would be a great place for a sunrise photo, but it is often very hazy here at dawn even during periods of generally clear weather. Usually the morning sun is often not visible until 2 or 3 hours after it has cleared the eastern horizon.

Turn left off Newfound Gap Road and drive 8 miles on Clingman's Dome Road along the crest of the Smokies to the parking lot for **Clingman's Dome**, the highest peak in the park (about 6642 feet). Those gorgeous sunrise and sunset shots that are often seen on calendars and postcards are usually made from the Clingman's Dome area. Unfortunately, these sunrises and sunsets are rarely seen because they are usually obscured by haze. Nevertheless, I have fond memories of a visit I made to Clingman's Dome a few years ago.

It was a warm, clear sunny summer day in the valleys. The parking lot was nearly full at midday and noisy tourists were chugging up and down the steep 1/2 mile concrete walkway to the 360 degree viewpoint the Park Service has constructed. I followed them and I too was disappointed in the hazy view from the top. But then I took one of the side trails off the parking lot into the dreamscape of the misty forest. Soon the noise of tourists was replaced by the magnificent solitude of the stately forest. Surrounded by these grand old trees, enshrouded in mist, it was like being in an outdoor cathedral.

Today the Clingman's Dome area is in a state of change. Thousands of trees are dead or dying. At the parking lot, fallen fir and spruce litter every viewpoint. The fir trees are

being killed by aphids that rob the trees of important nutrients and inject a toxic substance that kills the trees in 3 to 7 years. Fraser fir trees are profuse throughout the Smokies at elevations above 4500 feet. The Park Service is concerned that it could lose many of the trees because it is very expensive to protect them from the aphid. The spruce trees, on the other hand, are dying from unknown causes. Pollution and acid rain are suspected.

The Clingman's Dome area is still worth a visit. There is an abundance of wildflowers along the several trails which start at the parking lot. The trail to Andrews Bald begins here. It is about 1-1/2 miles (one way) along a rough, steep path, but Andrews Bald is reputed to be the quintessential "bald" experience. The trail opens out into a lovely meadow covered with berries, azaleas and rhododendron. It is an excellent spot for photography (or a snooze) on a summer day.

Return to Newfound Gap Road on Clingman's Dome Road. Turn left at the gap and cross into Tennessee. The Tennessee side of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park will be described in the next On Location column.

Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountain National Park - by Jim Sollo

Fotofax, February, 1989

In the December issue of Fototax, Dave Carter and I described a photo tour down the Blue Ridge Parkway to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Last month I described several portions of the park itself and I left our mythical traveler at Clingman's Dome about mid afternoon. To continue the tour return to Newfound Gap Road and turn left (north). The road winds down from the crest of the Smokies into Tennessee. All along Newfound Gap Road are parking areas for hiking trails along cascading creeks. Anyone of them offers a variety of landscape and nature images.

Continue north on Newfound Gap Road for about 15 miles into **Gatlinburg**, Tennessee. Route 441 is Gatlinburg's main street. It contains dozens of good quality motels and numerous restaurants as well as souvenir shops, candy stores, and curio shops. Traffic is heavy even during the "off-season."

Motel reservations should be made well in advance. I suggest that you check into a motel at this point and, perhaps, enjoy an early dinner. About 45 minutes before sunset head south on either Airport Road or Cherokee Orchard Road. Both roads lead to Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail, an 11-mile drive (most of it one-way) through a wooded setting containing backwoods homesteads which parallel Roaring Fork, the quintessential rushing mountain stream which gives the area its name.

In the dim light of late afternoon you will be able to see little of the stream or the old wooden farm buildings. The goal is to reach the second of two western overlooks for a classic Smokies sunset. Sunsets are often spectacular from here as the sun fades into the haze on the horizon above the **Chilhowee Mountains** to the west. Cloud patterns at dusk and the afterglow can also be very nice, particularly during the summer

months after a late afternoon thunderstorm. Return to Gatlinburg for a good night's rest.

The following morning, leave Gatlinburg at least one hour before dawn. Drive west on route 441 about 3 miles toward the **Sugarlands Visitors Center**. At Sugarlands turn right on Little River Road and drive 30 miles to Cades Cove.

Cades Cove is, quite simply, one of the most beautiful valleys on the face of the earth. An 11-mile loop road (one-way) skirts cleared pasture land which is surrounded by majestic mountains. A ranger opens the gate to the Cove at dawn every day. As soon as you enter the Cove area, you will see horses grazing in the mist on your left. While exposures in the dim light are difficult, this can make a nice pastoral scene. Usually I hurry the five miles to the west end of the Cove, looking for shots of deer as they move quietly in and out of the fog covered pastures.

There are several pullouts at the west end of the Cove where you can shoot the sunrise as it appears over the mountains to the east. Numerous shots can be made from different positions and angles at the west end of the Cove, with different objects in the foreground-trees, grasses, fences, deer, etc. -as the rising sun burns off the ground fog.

You can continue around the Cove, shooting beautiful pastoral scenes and small, 19th century homesteads and white, clapboard churches. It is usually still and quiet in the early morning hours in the Cove and serious landscape photographers will find a variety of vistas from which to capture the rural tranquility on film. My favorite subjects are the pasture land from the knoll across from the Carter Shields Cabin, the John Oliver Cabin, and the Methodist Church and it's adjacent cemetery whose gravestones always contain fresh flowers.

After quenching your photographic thirst in this lovely setting, leave the Cove area via Rich Mountain Road, a 7-mile, gravel road (one-way) which meanders north to route 73 (paved). The road winds up and over Rich Mountain through a pristine forest. At the end of the first mile, an overlook gives a breathtaking view of the Cove and, particularly, the area around the Methodist Church. Continue on Rich Mountain Road to route 73, turn right (west) toward Townsend and return to Little River Road. By now, in the midday light, you can see Little River crashing around boulders as it parallels the road. There are numerous pullouts along the river where one can enjoy a picnic lunch beside this picturesque stream.

Return to Gatlinburg and get more film. You are going to need it. From Gatlinburg drive back to the Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail. This time stop at the first "exhibit" area - **the Bud Ogle Farm**. All of the elements that combine to make the Smokies special, exist here. This typical hardscrabble homestead contains a tiny "main" house, barn and corn crib. The forest has grown up close to the structures, but interesting shots can still be made of this pioneer settlement from a variety of angles.

Follow Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail for a few more miles through the dark hemlock forest that made it so difficult to see anything when you were here late yesterday afternoon. Stop at the parking area for **Grotto Falls** and hike the one and one half miles through the quiet woods to the falls. The falls are only 30 feet high, but they are in one of the most picturesque settings one could imagine. Nestled deep within the shade of a hemlock forest, the falls drop over a rock ledge to a shallow pool. In the summer an emerald green aura from this lush setting tints the water. This has to be the most beautiful waterfall setting east of the Mississippi. Below the falls, Roaring Fork cascades through a wooded glen that no Hollywood movie set could ever duplicate.

It gets dark along the trail long before sunset, so don't linger too long. Return to your car and drive to the sunset location you shot from last night to see what sort of light show nature has in store for you this evening.

The following morning, get moving about a half hour before sunrise. Take route 441 from Gatlinburg past the Sugarlands Visitors Center. Turn right again on Little River Road. Instead of driving out to Cades Cove today, note the three pullouts on your right about three miles past Sugarlands. The third one is called **Maloney Point**. Stop here and look back east toward the valley where you can see the lights of Gatlinburg nestled in the pink-blue predawn light of a Smokies sunrise. In June and July, the sun comes up very close to the "crease" in the valley-the point where the mountain ranges on both sides of Gatlinburg converge. A soft haze hangs over the valley, giving the predawn scene a surrealistic quality. The sunrises here are pretty special too!

After shooting the sunrise, continue west on Little River Road for about two miles to the parking lot for **Laurel Falls**. The one and one quarter mile, paved trail to the falls is one of the most popular trails in the Smokies. But, at this time of day, you will have the trail and falls to yourself. The falls drop about 60 feet across and around a series of rock outcroppings. Mountain laurel abounds in late May.

When you return to your car, drive back to Gatlinburg for breakfast Then return to the **Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail** and, this time, you can linger and shoot some of the things you didn't shoot yesterday. One of my favorite places is Roaring Fork in the woods below the Ephraim Bales home. If you like shots of crashing streams bounding around moss-covered rocks, this area is hard to beat. The Alfred Reagan Place is another preserved historic homestead that can be shot from a variety of locations. Close-ups of the old exterior wooden wall can also be interesting. The road then meanders back toward Gatlinburg crossing Roaring Fork several times. There are several pullouts in this area. In the woods near anyone of them you can find wild - flowers and lovely nature scenes alongside the stream. You could spend a full day here.

The return to Washington can be done in one long day's drive north on route 441 from Gatlinburg to interstate 81. From here it's a straight, yet scenic, drive back to Front Royal, Virginia, and then east into the Washington area. I hope you enjoy your trip!

West Virginia and Seneca Rocks - by Beth Kaplan and Dave Carter

Fotofax, March 1989

Most of us are familiar with Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park. Indeed, some of us have developed a personal relationship with each rock and every wildflower. A little farther to the west is a mountainous region in West Virginia which is different, but just as beautiful. It will be the focus of our field trip in May. We will be staying in **Elkins** just west of the Monongahela National Forest and the Allegheny Mountains.

The fastest way to get to Elkins is also very scenic. Take 1-66 west from Washington past Front Royal and turn south on 1-81. At Harrisonburg turn west on route 33 which will take you straight to Elkins. While you are near Harrisonburg keep your eyes open. There is a Mennonite community here and you may get the feeling you have suddenly been transported to Lancaster County in Pennsylvania. If you are looking for slow, scenic routes you could take Skyline Drive from Front Royal south to route 33 at Swift Run Gap and turn right toward Harrisonburg. As an alternative, pick up route 55 at Front Royal and take it west to Moorefield, West Virginia. Here you turn left onto route 28 which connects with route 33 at Seneca Rocks. Turn right toward Elkins.

West of Harrisonburg, about 18 to 20 miles, look on the left for **Skidmore Lake** almost hidden in a deep valley. (It is just 2 miles east of the West Virginia border.) If you catch the light at the right moment (middle to late afternoon) the lake sparkles in the sunshine and you may see clouds and the surrounding pine forests reflected in the lake. A rugged access road takes you down to the lake and you can walk on the dirt dam which has created this lovely body of water. The best vistas are near the top of the access road, but there is no sign marking the road. The road is easier to find if you look for a left turn lane. It is the only one in the vicinity.

Continue west on route 33. You will pass wide vistas over **German Valley**. Beyond the valley you will come to **Seneca Rocks**, blade-like rock formations which tower nearly 1000 feet into the air. The rocks glisten in the warm light of late afternoon. This is one of the most popular rock climbing spots east of the Mississippi River. In fact, American troops trained here during World War II for the invasion of Northern Italy. Turn right onto route 28 and park at the Visitor's Center. Here you will find plenty of maps and brochures on attractions in the area.

Unless you started very early you will probably want to head west to Elkins on route 33 and get a good meal and a night's sleep. The distance to Elkins is roughly 240 miles.

We would suggest that you return to the Seneca Rocks area in the morning. Here you must decide whether to go north or south. Route 28 takes you north toward the **Dolly Sods Wilderness Area**. There is a small sign indicating where you turn left; no route

number appears on the official state map, but it is West Virginia route 4. If you come to **Smoke Hole Caverns** on route 28, you have gone a bit too far. Take advantage of your mistake and visit the caverns. Most of the cave is still being formed, and while exploring it you will gain some insight into the unusual geological history of the Seneca Rocks area. Flash is allowed in the cave, but tripods are not. Take your longest macro lens. You might have an opportunity to photograph some sleeping bats!

Return south and turn right toward **Dolly Sods** which is reached via West Virginia route 4 and forest routes 19 and 75. Dolly Sods is a miniature altiplano that has been logged and grazed and now supports shrubs, small wind-blown conifers, and numerous wildflowers, many of them more typical of northern climates. There are many unusual landscapes to be made here if you take some time to explore. Bear Rocks at the northern tip of Dolly Sods are eroded in interesting ways and afford views to the north and east. The access roads are unpaved and quite steep, but they are well maintained.

West Virginia route 4 continues on to route 32. A right turn toward the small town of Davis will lead you to **Canaan Valley State Park**, a beautiful ski resort, and **Blackwater Falls State Park**. Blackwater Falls drops into a deep canyon. It was the Site of an NVPS field trip a few years ago, but if you have never seen the falls, it is well worth a visit. The falls face south so they are in direct sunlight most of the day. If you like to avoid contrast in your lighting conditions, plan your visit on a cloudy day. (If you find yourself here at the end of the field trip, work your way north to route 50 and take it back to the Washington area.)

Near Davis there is an **inhabited beaver dam** south of the first culvert on route 93 east of route 32. Just before dawn and just after dusk are the best times to see beavers. Farther to the east on route 93 is the West Virginia Energy Center Mount Storm Power Station. The fountains of water entering the cooling pond and the fly ash slurry chute offer some unusual photographic possibilities.

Since there is much more to see, return south on route 32. When you reach the junction with route 33 turn right. Go about a mile to a small bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left at the sign for **Spruce Knob**, the highest point in West Virginia (4861 feet). The attraction of Spruce Knob is not the vista from the top, but the access road provides a wealth of opportunities for a variety of landscapes. At the summit, our favorite subjects are the weather-worn rocks and trees as well as some wildflowers which are rarely found in the Washington area. These include painted trillium and wild bleeding heart. One word of caution is necessary. It can be cold and windy here, and we recommend bringing a winter coat and gloves.

You can embark on another southern excursion directly from Elkins. Take route 250 to Huttonsviile. If you stay on route 250 you will cross the Cheat River Bridge before you come to route 28/92. A right turn onto 28/92 takes you to the **town of Green Bank**. Here you will find the **National Radio Astronomy Observatory**, a facility devoted, among other things, to the search for life on other planets. Our latest information

indicates that tours are available from Memorial Day through October, but if you are interested in this facility call ahead (304-456-2011).

Take route 150/219 south from Huttonsville. (Watch for newly painted **Chew Mail Pouch Tobacco** signs on the barns.) Routes 150 and 219 separate after several miles. At this point, route 150 becomes the Highland Scenic Highway. Some attractions along the way are the **Cass Scenic Railroad** and the **Cranberry Glades**. The tour through the bog is via boardwalk, and many interesting and unusual wildflowers are to be found here. West of the **Cranberry Mountain Visitor Center** (open Memorial Day through October), route 39 takes you to the three **Falls of the Hills Creek**. A very steep three-quarter-mile trail takes hikers down a narrow ravine. The lower falls are the highest, 63 feet. East of the Cranberry Mountain Visitor Center, route 39 passes through dense coniferous forests along the boulder-strewn Maury River. Route 39 intersects with route 219 at Mill Point. A short distance south on route 219 is the town of **Hillsboro**. There is a **covered bridge** near the town which spans Locust Creek. Neither of us has seen the bridge. This is the only covered bridge in the area. The famous bridge at Philippi was destroyed by fire not long before this article was written.) There are also several state parks in the area. If you go farther south and find yourself near the **town of Beckley**, visit the **Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine**. You ride through the mine on a small train. The guides are retired coal miners, and their stories of the coal mining industry are both informative and entertaining.

The Cass Scenic Railroad is operated by the West Virginia Department of Commerce. Trains run from Cass to **Bald Knob**, the second highest point in the state. The geared Shay locomotives, which were originally used on logging trains, will appeal to the mechanically minded. Wild turkeys and deer are plentiful, and sometimes bears are sighted. For shots of wildlife, ride the car farthest from the engine. For shots of the engine itself, ride the second or third car from the engine. The trip to the summit takes about 4 1/2 hours and, because of the haze, you are taking a gamble on having a good view from Bald Knob. The real attraction is the train ride, and if that is what interests you there is a shorter trip available. The railroad ordinarily operates from Memorial Day through October. If you want to double check, call (304) 456-4300.

These are a few of the major attractions in the mountain regions of West Virginia. But the real attractions of this area are the endless opportunities to explore country roads which seem untouched by modern times. Many of them do not appear on maps. You will find it very useful to have both the official state map and the large map of the Monongahela National Forest put out by the U. S. Forest Service. These can be obtained at the **Seneca Rocks Visitor's Center**.

Service facilities are few and far apart on West Virginia roads, and grades, especially on forest routes, can be as steep as 10 percent. **Carry water for yourself and, if your vehicle drinks it, motor oil.** Start your day with a full tank of gas and fill up before you get too low on fuel.

For more information and maps of West Virginia, there is a toll-free number to call, 800-CALLWV A. They say it will take about two weeks to get the material to you. That may be a bit optimistic. For information on the Monongahela National Forest and maps of the forest, write to the Forest Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, West Virginia, 26241 (304-636-1800). The headquarters is directly across the street from the campus of Davis and Elkins College. You may also want to stop at the Chamber of Commerce office which is located just off route 33 across the street from McDonald's. They should be open seven days a week.

If you have not explored West Virginia, you are in for a real treat.

Huntley Meadows - By Dave Carter & Fred Siskind

Fotofax, April 1989

One of the most unusual natural attractions in the Washington area is **Huntley Meadows Park**, consisting of 1261 acres in the Hybla Valley area of Fairfax County. This land was once the bottom of an ancient channel of the Potomac River. The park contains a variety of habitats including wetlands, meadows, and forests. It is truly a natural treasure in the middle of an urban area. At least 194 species of birds have been observed here including great blue herons, common egrets, green backed herons, Canada geese, several species of ducks and hawks, and even an occasional American bittern, bald eagle, and wild turkey. There are countless species of insects. Dragonflies and damsel flies are especially abundant. Many mammals live in Huntley Meadows Park too, including white tailed deer, otter, beavers, raccoons, opossums, foxes, and squirrels. Keep your eyes open in the late spring and early summer as frogs, snakes, and turtles emerge from winter hibernation.

Most visitors enter the park at the Lockheed Boulevard entrance off route 1 about three miles south of the Beltway. Stop at the Visitor Center and get a trail map. The Visitor Center is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturdays and Sundays from noon until 5:00 PM) Take the Cedar Trail into the woods. Take care to stay on the trail. The forest is full of poison ivy in this area. You will come to a boardwalk through the wetlands. The boardwalk leads to an observation tower and a trail loop called the Deer Trail where barred owls can be seen and sometimes photographed in the spring. Early in the morning on weekends you will find photographers with tripods set up on the boardwalk along with bird watchers and other nature lovers. Your best bet is a long lens (at least 300mm), perhaps with a teleconverter. Every time you visit the park there seems to be something different to see and to photograph. In fact, the wetland area changes each year as a result of beaver activity, and different bird species use it depending on available food and nesting resources. We have photographed nesting king birds, Canada geese, prothonotary warblers, blue-gray gnat catchers, and pileated woodpeckers.

Several NVPS members make regular trips to Huntley Meadows, and their patience is often rewarded with spectacular images of flora and fauna. Patience is the key. It is frequently necessary to be very still so as not to disturb the birds and other wildlife.

We have known photographers to get within two feet of a frog, set up a tripod, and get several close-up shots with a 200mm macro lens! In fact, some wildlife will come to you if not disturbed so you can get a much closer picture. Patience is truly a virtue when doing this kind of photography.

Like other natural areas, it is important to get to know the park if you expect to get the most out of your subject matter. Spotting birds, insects, and small wildflowers requires skills which are well worth developing no matter where you go to do nature photography. The rangers are very helpful. Don't hesitate to ask for their aid in locating subjects and in learning about the inhabitants of the park. Photo opportunities differ in each season. It pays to visit often to learn exactly where to look for objects of interest to you.

Huntley Meadows has a very unusual array of wildflowers. The park is especially well known for the tickseed sunflowers which reach their peak shortly after Labor Day. The border along the road from the main entrance to the Visitor Center and the meadows in the back of the park turn gold and attract a variety of colorful butterflies and insects. Along the boardwalk trail you are likely to see wildflowers rarely seen outside of the park unless you frequent wetland areas. The not-so-common wildflowers in the park include blue flag (a wild iris), bluecurls, buttonbush, cardinal flowers, rabbit's foot clover, fetterbush, both downy false and smooth false foxglove, purple gerardia, Maryland golden asters, lizard tail, both great and downy lobelia, marsh mallow, sharp-winged monkey flowers, partridge pea, swamp roses, strawberry bush, and halberd-leaved tearthumb. Many of these flowers we have never seen in other locations. Of course, the more common wildflowers are well represented in the park too. Carolyn Gamble is the ranger who can best help you identify wildflowers. Bring her a picture, not a flower you have picked!

During the autumn you will find an abundance of **mushrooms** to photograph, especially the day after a rain. The varieties seem endless, and it takes an expert to identify them. Don't pick any mushrooms for your lunch. Some of the species which grow in the park are quite deadly.

We have had the best luck finding mushrooms between the Visitor Center and the beginning of the boardwalk and in the area on the pond walk at the rear of the park. Flash may be necessary to photograph some of the mushrooms because they are often found in deep shade.

There is **another section of the park which few visitors every see**. To reach the back of the park, take the beltway to Telegraph Road (exit 2). Drive south about three miles. You will pass a golf course on the right. At the bottom of a long hill there is a 7-11 store and an Exxon service station on the left. Here South King Highway meets Telegraph Road in a V-shaped intersection. Turn left and go straight across South King Highway to the back entrance to Huntley Meadows Park. Leave your car outside the gate or it may get locked inside. Walk into the park about 250 yards to an old

parking area. There should be a road to the right and a gate. Take the road about a third of a mile. Look for a trail on your left which is a cleared area about 15 feet wide.

You have just reached what **insect** photographers call **heaven**. During the autumn on mornings when there has been a heavy dew and the temperature is below 60 degrees, you can find dragonflies, butterflies, damsel flies, crane flies, and other insects clinging motionless to the tall grasses. These wonderful dew-covered creatures can be photographed in natural light while they dry their wings provided the air is still. Try to get there at sunrise because the dew can burn off quickly. Bring a sturdy tripod that allows you to set up your camera close to the ground. This area is also good for caterpillars as well as dew-covered spider webs and dew-covered plants. It takes some experience to spot the insects, but with practice you can get some lovely images. You have seen many of them in competitions. Some words of warning are necessary. There have been some muggings in this area. We recommend that you don't go alone. You should also **bring some insect spray and check for ticks** when you get home. A hat helps protect against ticks.

It is this back section of the park through which Fairfax County would like to build a non-photogenic highway. Runoff from the road threatens the ecology of the entire park. This would be a tragic loss, not only for the animals and plants which thrive in this unusual environment, but for everyone who enjoys nature. The fight to save the park rages on and the outcome is still uncertain. Before it's too late, visit Huntley Meadows. You never know what unusual creatures you will find there!

The Coast of Delaware - By Wayne Wolfersberger

Fotofax, May 1989

Without a doubt, spring in the Washington area is the best season for outdoor photography. The light seems to have a better quality, there is an abundance of wildflowers and new growth, and the animals, especially birds, are at their best. Territorial behavior, courtship displays, and breeding plumage are at their peak for many species. Some male birds are bolder and easier to approach in the spring. Amphibians are another group that should not be overlooked during their spring. There are also few insect pests and the temperatures are perfect.

One of my favorite places during the month of May is the **coast of Delaware**. I make it a priority to visit **Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Port Mahon and Cape Heniopen** several times in May. These sites offer a variety of subjects with an emphasis on shore birds and some water fowl. A weekend trip gives you plenty of time to explore the coastal area, but it is usually very crowded with birders from near and far because May is the height of the spring migratory season. An alternative is to make the visit in the middle of the week. One can arrive at the Delaware coast after a scant two and a half hour drive from Fairfax County.

Be sure to bring insect repellent! Although early May is less likely to have a mosquito population, there could still be a local population if the area has had a wet

spring and/or the winds have been blowing in certain directions. Even if there are no mosquitoes, I always spray my shoes and lower pant legs to repel ticks, chiggers or other unwanted guests.

To maximize my shooting opportunities, I turn in early the night before and leave around 3:00 AM in order to arrive by sunrise. Take the Beltway to route 50 east, travel over the Bay Bridge and bear left when routes 50 and 301 split. Travel north on route 301 for about twenty miles to state route 300. Follow 300 east for about fifteen miles to Kenton and pick up state route 42, drive east to Cheswold, cross over route 13 (a few miles north of Dover) and continue east to Leipsic. Pick up route 9 north for six-tenths of a mile. There are signs for **Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge**. Turn right on Whitehall Neck Road and follow the signs to the refuge. The area around the refuge is country farmland and photo opportunities in the early morning light are very appealing. Close to the refuge entrance is a Visitors Center which has information, maps, and rest rooms available even if you arrive before the opening hour.

Within the refuge there are about four or five miles of accessible roads. Some of the routes take you along dikes. Most roads follow the edges of either fresh or salt water areas. A few of the routes take the driver to the edge of marshes and still others pass through wooded areas or through fields of crops planted as food for the wildlife.

Ring-necked pheasants abound in the refuge, especially in the corn fields between the Visitors Center and Raymond Pool. There are several observation towers and short hiking trails to explore, none far from the roads. My favorite is the Boardwalk Trail. If you have patience you may be able to capture a few images of a male long-billed marsh wren singing while perched on a cattail stem. When you travel the roads, don't forget that you can use your car as a blind. Most shoulders are wide enough to permit you to pull over and photograph the wildlife.

The Bombay Hook Refuge provides great opportunities to photograph shorebirds, waterfowl, and wading birds. You can also expect to find mating snapping turtles, horseshoe crabs and water snakes if you look in the appropriate habitats. Look for the nonpoisonous amorous water snakes around the streams that flow under the roads. The Parson Point Trail is particularly rich in snakes. Eastern kingbirds and red winged black birds are sure to be found along the roads, often perching or exhibiting territorial displays. Ducks, geese, plovers, sandpipers, herons and egrets are always abundant. If you are fortunate, you may also see avocets and some black-necked stilts close enough to photograph them. Hawks, osprey and eagles are present, but they are usually too distant to photograph except with the longest of telephoto lenses.

Break for lunch. If you don't bring your own lunch, drive back to Cheswold and look for one of several fast food restaurants. Then return to Leipsic, but turn south on route 9. Proceed for about eight or nine miles to Little Creek. In the center of town you will find a road heading east for a mile to **Port Mahon** where the road ends. On the right is a narrow channel of water which, depending on the tide, will usually be full of shore birds that are easy to approach and photograph. During May the waters are crowded

with **horseshoe crabs** that are either mating or laying eggs. When the flocks of shore birds discover this bonanza of eggs in the sand or mud a feeding frenzy is sure to follow.

Here you can also find egrets, plovers, sandpipers, gulls, and often a dozen or so blacknecked stilts. There may even be a few surprises. A 300mm or 400mm lens will usually put you within easy reach of the birds. Just use the sand piles to help you hide as you creep up for a closer vantage point. Other photo opportunities may be found if you observe the rocks, vegetation, pilings, sea walls, wrecked boats, and commercial fishing vessels.

Cap off your day by returning to Little Creek and then travel south on route 9 past Dover Air Force Base to route 113. Drive to Milford and turn toward Lewes on route 14. Follow the signs to the Lewes-Cape May Ferry and then continue your drive to **Henlopen State Park**. Bear left and follow the road out to the point. Here you will find more shore birds, cormorants and a glorious coastal beach complete with sand dunes, beach grass and other vegetation, ocean waves, a light house across the inlet and breeding terns. (The nesting area is off limits.) By this time it should be late afternoon and the lighting is excellent for dramatic seascapes and landscapes. Strong side lighting, sand dunes, and beach grass all combine for some great exposures.

To return home, go back to Lewes and then drive west to route 14. Head north seven miles to route 16. Follow route 16 west all the way through Delaware and into Maryland where you will reach route 404. Follow 404 fourteen miles to route 50. Travel west across the Bay Bridge and back home to the Washington area. For additional information, write to Delaware Travel, Box 1401, 630 State College Road, Dover, Delaware, 19901, or call (800) 441-8846.

The Flying Circus - By Dave Carter

Fotofax, June 1989

I have vivid memories of my first visit to the **Flying Circus** almost ten years ago. It was a hot Sunday afternoon when I arrived at the grass covered air field near Bealeton, Virginia. I was only vaguely aware of the music coming over the loudspeakers as I wandered around among the old antique airplanes. The music was from the era of the great barnstorming air shows. Eventually, the radio announcer began to interview some of the pilots who participate in the weekly Flying Circus.

Most were not commercial pilots. They came from all walks of life. In fact, one was a minister. What they all had in common was a love of aviation and a strong desire to share the excitement of the early days of flying with the public. This is still true today.

Each pilot owns his own airplane and designs his own act. The act is auditioned first for the members of the Flying Circus and then for officials of the Federal Aeronautics Administration to make sure that it is both interesting and safe. The families of most of the pilots work at the airfield running concessions or doing whatever needs to be

done. The shows run from 2:30 until 4:00 PM from the first Sunday in May through the last Sunday in October. However, the field is open from 11:00 AM until dark. Admission is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12.

I recommend that you arrive early. Before or after the show you can go for a ride in one of the open-cockpit airplanes. The cost for the standard ride varies from \$17.50 to \$40.00 depending on the kind of plane. The acrobatic rides cost \$50.00. If you prefer to keep your feet on the ground, just wander the field photographing the pilots with their magnificent flying machines.

When the air show starts, prepare to shoot lots of film. There are old-fashioned dogfights, planes diving at paper streamers or balloons cutting them to pieces with their propellers, bombing runs, wing walkers, sky divers, comic flying, and much more. There are more than 30 pilots in the Flying Circus. Not all of them participate each Sunday, so every week the show is a little different.

If you have never been to the Flying Circus, you will be surprised at how close the airplanes are. A 200mm or 300mm lens, perhaps with a teleconverter, will often allow you to fill the viewfinder. Since there is plenty of action to shoot I prefer to use Kodachrome 200 film. You may want a tripod for ground shots. but you will certainly want to pan with the action when the airplanes are in flight.

Every summer there is a hot air balloon race. This year it will take place on August 19th and 20th. Balloons aren't easy to launch in the wind, so the race takes place very early in the morning while the air is still. You will have a hard time finding a more photogenic event.

Give yourself a treat this summer and visit the Flying Circus. Help them celebrate their twentieth season. It's easy to get there. Take 1-66 west and exit on route 29 south at Gainesville. Continue south through Warrenton to Opal and pick up route 17 toward Fredericksburg. Just past Bealeton turn left on route 644 which leads directly to the Flying Circus. For additional information write to Flying Circus Air Shows. Inc ., Box 99, Bealeton, Virginia, 22712, or call (703) 439-8661.

Massanutten Mountain & Fort Valley - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, September 1989

This month I will describe an area which will probably be my target for photographing autumn foliage, **Massanutten Mountain and Fort Valley**, and a few attractions along the way. Take 1-66 west from the beltway toward Front Royal. Along the way (27.9 miles from the beltway) look to the right for Beverly Mill as you enter Fauquier County. The most photogenic view is from the **bridge crossing Broad Run**, but you will have to park at the side of the interstate and walk back to the bridge. The warm cross-lighting early in the morning brings out the texture of the stone mill and produces a very pleasing color, but the mill's water wheel will be in shadow. One advantage of

photographing the mill at an early hour might not occur to you. There is little traffic to shake the bridge or run you over.

Continue west to exit 3 which is 51 miles from Washington's beltway. At the end of the exit ramp turn left and drive a few hundred yards to route 55. You could take a side trip by turning left into Linden and driving up to the top of **Blue Mountain**. Here in early May you will find acres of large-flowered trillium in bloom along with many other wildflowers including yellow lady slippers, showy orchis, wild geraniums, and the rare nodding trillium. I will give specific directions to anyone who is interested. You won't find the wildflowers on your own. The top of the mountain is covered with apple orchards. My best guess is that the peak of the apple blossoms occurs at the very end of April or the very beginning of May.

To get to Front Royal turn right on route 55. Immediately on your right is the Apple House where you can get hot, fresh donuts in the morning and make a rest stop. Then stay on route 55 west through Front Royal. **I recommend filling your gas tank here** and, if you haven't brought a picnic lunch, get some food. There are few facilities in Fort Valley.

There isn't a great deal to photograph in Front Royal proper, but a short distance South of town you will find the northern **entrance to Skyline Drive, Skyline Caverns, and the Thunderbird Museum and Archeological Park**. Each is worth a visit.

Continue through Front Royal on route 55 West crossing the south fork of the Shenandoah River. Turn left at the traffic light at the end of the bridge and follow route 55 for 5.2 miles. Look for route 678 at Waterlick and turn left. You are now in **Fort Valley** formed by the eastern and western ridges of Massanutten Mountain. Route 678 takes you south through the valley to King's Crossing. At the northern end of the valley are small farms with fields which turn to gold when the winter cress blooms in the spring. Not far beyond Waterlick is route 619. Go 0.2 miles to the left to visit a fish hatchery which is open 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM weekdays March through July.

Return to the main road, turn left, and continue south through the valley. You will be surrounded by the **George Washington National Forest**. On your left Passage Creek flows parallel to the road. About 2.3 miles south of Waterlick is an area which is particularly popular with fishermen and swimmers. It's the closest thing I've ever seen to a traditional rural "swimming hole," and there are lots of opportunities to photograph people. This may also be the best place to photograph the creek itself because there is plenty of "white water" and the rock formations are especially interesting. (If you are so inclined, visiting the area on a weekday is probably the best way to get people out of your pictures.) The road is narrow throughout the valley. Be very careful where you park.

Continue south another 1.7 miles and look for **Elizabeth Furnace** (the day use area, not the campground). If you cross the pasture area adjacent to the parking lot you will find a trail up the mountain. On the way, look for remnants of old farm machinery. I

have never climbed to the top of the ridge so I can't tell you what vistas await you if you walk down the fire road past the gate marked "road closed" you will come to Passage Creek. The stream bank is pretty, but I prefer the wildflowers along the fire road. Cardinal flowers and other interesting species grow here. The joe-pye weeds attract hundreds of butterflies in late summer. There are also plenty of mosquitoes to photograph, but they are so big you may need a wide angle lens. Every few years cougars are reported here, and a naturalist I trust very much believes the stories are true. if you find a cougar, do not photograph it with a wide angle lens! (The rare Canadian moose reported to have been shot in the valley several years ago turned out to be a mule!) Before you leave Elizabeth Furnace you may wish to use the bathroom facilities located on the left side of the fire road as you approach the river. You won't find such facilities again until you reach King's Crossing.

Leave Elizabeth Furnace and continue south. Look on the right for the second rocky embankment. You will have driven 1.6 miles from Elizabeth Furnace. There will be a driveway on the right. The name on the mailbox is "Glass." You are now in wildflower heaven. Walk up the driveway until you can climb the embankment on the left. At the top is one of the many **unusual shale barren areas** in Fort Valley. It is home to many uncommon flowers that survive under very dry conditions. I am especially fond of the bi-colored bird's foot violet (indigo and light blue) which blooms in late April. On the other side of the road you may find leather flowers which bloom in June and July.

Continue south on route 678 for 3.1 miles. In June look for yellow cactus blossoms along the road. When you come to route 771 turn right toward Powell's Fort Camp. Go 1 mile to the fork in the road. Stay to the right. Go another 0.6 miles, turn right, and go through a gate. Go another 2.4 miles and enter the dirt road on the right where you will find yourself in a small clearing used as a parking lot. (There will be at least one dirt road on the right prior to reaching the correct area.) You are now at the entrance to an unusual habitat, a **mountain bog**. Many interesting plants grow here, including the very rare showy lady slipper. These lovely orchids are located within a few feet of the bog entrance so you don't have to risk getting lost. If you go any further into the bog follow the stream and **be prepared to sink up to your knees in mud**. The lady slippers are likely to be at peak bloom beginning about the middle of May.

Return to the main road through Fort Valley (route 678) and continue south. Go 1.4 miles to route 774 and turn right. Very quickly you will come to **several dilapidated sheds and barns**. You may find some photo opportunities here.

Go another 1.2 miles south on route 678 and look for the **Fort Valley Museum** at the junction with route 770. Just beyond on the left side of the road is a white church with a blue door and a tin roof. The most photogenic view is from the south with a cemetery on the hill behind the church. There are many **small churches** in the valley, but this one is my favorite.

Continue south to the village of **Seven Fountains** at the junction with route 758. A detour to the left may be worth your while for its rustic farm scenes, but I prefer the

route to the right. Follow the road until it comes to a T-intersection and turn left. In less than a mile you will come to an **observation tower** on the western ridge of Massanutten Mountain. From the tower you can see into Fort Valley from one side and into the Shenandoah Valley from the other. The famous seven bends of the Shenandoah River can be seen clearly. Just beyond the tower I noticed a couple of cars with some strange equipment on the roof covered with canvas. It looked to me like this might be a launching site for **hang gliders**. If you arrive at the right time you might get some interesting pictures of daring individuals soaring over the Shenandoah Valley.

If you continue your drive down the other side of the mountain you will find yourself in the **town of Woodstock**. The road crosses the Shenandoah River. The setting is attractive and there is an interesting dam on the left side of the bridge.

Return to Fort Valley and continue South from Seven Fountains. Go 3.1 miles and turn left on route 775 toward **St. David's Church**. I never did find the church, but this is my favorite country road in the valley. There are lots of interesting barns, general farm scenes, old wagons, horses, and fields of ox-eye daisies with mountains in the background.

When you return to route 678 turn left and drive 4.1 miles to the general store at King's Crossing where gasoline, snack food, and a bathroom are available. Route 675 crosses the main road. A right turn will take you to **Edinburg** and route 11 in the Shenandoah Valley; a left turn leads to **Luray in Page Valley**. There are photo opportunities in both directions.

Turn left and follow route 675 toward Luray. Look on the right for the Carolyn Furnace Lutheran Camp. The camp is about 2.7 miles from King's Crossing. Just beyond the camp is a junction. Route 675 goes left and route 730 goes to the right. You go straight on the dirt road. Watch for pot holes. Mud on this road seems especially slippery.

Drive 7.7 miles and look on the left for the small parking area for the **Massanutten Story Trail**. Hike this flat trail through the forest to the top of a rocky cliff overlooking Luray and Page Valley. I am determined to photograph the sunrise from this overlook with the Blue Ridge Mountains in the background. Many interesting wildflowers grow along the trail, some of them quite uncommon. The endangered small whorled pogonia has been reported here, but I have never found it. The larger whorled pogonia is plentiful. This area, I am told, is a very good spot to do some serious rattle snake photography.

New Market and The Shenandoah Valley - By Dave Carter

Fotofax, October 1989

Last month in this column I outlined a tour from Front Royal through Fort Valley and up on Massanutten Mountain to New Market Gap. This month I will continue the tour along the ridges of the southern half of Massanutten Mountain, the area around New Market, and some of the Shenandoah Valley.

From the Washington Beltway take 1-66 west to the Gainesville exit. Continue on route 29 south to Warrenton. Turn right on route 211 west toward Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park. If you like to get up early to photograph the sunrise, you may wish to drive a short distance south along Skyline Drive to **Buck Hollow Overlook**. This overlook is on the left 1.9 miles from the park entrance. Here you will find a wonderful vantage point from which you can photograph the sun rising over the hills of the Virginia Piedmont. There is often fog in the low areas between the hills producing nice moods in your pictures. Try to get to the overlook about 10 or 15 minutes before the sun peaks over the horizon.

Leave Shenandoah National Park via route 211 and continue west into the valley. Drive through Luray toward New Market. When the road begins to climb Massanutten Mountain, watch for the **Massanutten Visitor Center** on the left side of the road. If you drive about 100 to 200 feet beyond the Visitor Center you will see a dirt road on the right. This is the road that leads to the that marks the end of the tour I described last month, The distance is about 1.4 miles from route 211. The far end of the trail (about 0.3 miles from the parking area) provides another vantage point for photographing the sunrise. Allow about three hours from the Beltway to get to this location. Two hours should be sufficient to get to Buck Hollow Overlook. Personal -ly, I would prefer to allow some additional time so that I wouldn't miss the opportunity to make photographs in the predawn light.

Return to the Visitor Center. If you have photographed the sunrise you can sit in your car until the Visitor Center opens and take a nap. You could also explore the short nature trail that begins at the parking lot. The trail is known for its yellow lady slippers and wild irises which bloom in the spring.) When the Center does open get a good collection of maps (some free, some for sale) so that you won't get lost exploring the roads on the southern half of the mountain. (The most useful items I got were the \$2.00 map of the George Washington National Forest, which is roughly the size of a billboard, and a \$6.00 book, **Guide to the Massanutten Mountain: Hiking Trails**). At the Visitor Center, which is open from mid-April through October 31, you will find a room full of nature posters on a variety of subjects (wildflowers, insects, birds, mushrooms, etc). These posters are beautiful, and they are free!

Turn left as you leave the Visitor Center and drive down to New Market in the valley. Take route 211 across the bridge over 1-81 and look on the right for the entrance to the New Market Battlefield Park. This is one of the most interesting and most photogenic Civil War battlefields in our area. One of the best times to visit is on Mother's Day. On that Sunday every year the reenactment of the Battle of New Market is staged. If you have never been to a reenactment let me assure you that it is very exciting. The best vantage point for photographers is probably near the farm area. Get there very early. There are lots of interesting pictures to be taken at the soldiers' encampments in the morning. You should be in position for the battle a couple of hours before it starts. Take water. I prefer to use my zoom lenses (35 to 105 mm and 75 to 150 mm.) I mount my camera on a monopod and use Kodachrome 200 film.

There are other attractions in the area. There is a walking tour of the town described in a brochure and Shenandoah Caverns about four miles north of New Market. To get to the cave take route 11 and follow the signs. The Meems Bottom Covered Bridge is located between New Market and Mt. Jackson. Take route 11 north and turn left (west) on route 720. The span is 204 feet in length and crosses the north fork of the Shenandoah River. The single-span Burr arch truss structure was rebuilt after Halloween arsonists destroyed the bridge in 1976. It is nearly impossible to get a good perspective for a photograph, but there are some interesting country roads on the other side of the bridge.

You could also drive south on 1-81 to Mt. Solon and Natural Chimneys Regional Park. Get off 1-81 at Bridgewater and drive south on route 42. Then turn right on route 747 and drive to the park. Here you will find seven massive towers of colorful stone which rise majestically for more than 100 feet above their naturally tunneled bases.

However, the real attraction of the park is the jousting tournament held in June and again in August. This is the oldest continuously-held sporting event in America (since 1821). Try to find a position where the horses charge directly toward you and use a very long telephoto lens.

When you leave the Natural Chimneys area take route 747 back toward 1-81, but turn right on route 731 and right again on route 42. Take route 42 south to route 250. Turn right and drive west into the Shenandoah Mountains. Look for Ramsey's Draft Natural Area in the George Washington National Forest, the largest national forest in the eastern United States. Ramsey's Draft contains 1750 acres of virgin timber honey-combed with hiking trails. This is a good place to come to enjoy the colorful autumn foliage and avoid the traffic jams along Skyline Drive.

Go east past the Massanutten Mountain Visitor Center. Drive an additional 2.8 miles

Take route 250 east to 1-81 and drive north to the New Market exit. Get on route 211. and turn right on route 615. This road will take you to route 340. Turn south toward the town of Shenandoah. Along 340 you will find many fine farms to photograph against

the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east and Massanutten Mountain to the west. Although 340 runs parallel to the south fork of the Shenandoah River, you will have to search hard for a place from which you can photograph the river. Route 650 is your best bet.

At Shenandoah turn right on route 602 and, in a few miles, right again on route 636. This road takes you up to the top of Massanutten Mountain. When the road ends turn left on forest route 375. For the next three miles or so you will drive beside one of the most beautiful mountain streams I have ever seen. Water cascades on lichen-covered rocks. The stream is so accessible that you can photograph it from the road. Drive very carefully. Rocks and roots serve as speed bumps. You will be driving very slowly. The first time I drove on this road a turtle dashed in front of my car and made it safely across the road. The first two or three miles are by far the prettiest. When you return, follow route 375 past an old iron furnace to the town of Newport and turn north on route 340 to Luray.

Its easy to get home from here. Take route 211 east to Warrenton and pick up route 29 toward Washington. At Gainesville you can get on 1-66. If you have any energy left as you cross Skyline Drive, go north about 1 mile to Pass Mountain Overlook. At dusk I love to watch the lights come on in Luray. This is a very restful spot, and I often spend some time here before driving home.

Baltimore, Maryland - By Gary Silverstein

Fotofax, November 1989

I could not live in Washington if I didn't have Baltimore to which I could escape. Baltimore has everything that our Nation's Capitol lacks: tall buildings, massive ships, a vibrant port, ethnic neighborhoods, urban markets and, of course, major league baseball. It is also home to a 192-year-old frigate, a World War II submarine, a railroad museum, and the best neon sign on the East Coast.

I find an excuse to visit Baltimore at least once a month (2 or 3 times per month when the Orioles are in town). If traffic is light, I can travel the 45 miles between my house in Northern Virginia and downtown Baltimore in just under an hour. The two easiest ways to get to Baltimore are 1-95 (via the Beltway) and the Baltimore Washington Parkway (via New York Avenue). Using either route, exits to the Inner Harbor and downtown are well marked.

The best place to begin any visit to Baltimore is the **Inner Harbor**, where once rotting wharves have been transformed into a complex of shops, restaurants and hotels. But what separates the Inner Harbor from other urban mails are "tourist" attractions that are truly unique to Baltimore. I recommend getting acclimated at the **observation deck atop the World Trade Center** (the tallest pentagonal building in the world). Rising 30 stories on the edge of the harbor, it provides an excellent view of downtown architecture and the industrial port. Unfortunately (given my own interests in night photography), the observatory is only open from 10:00 AM until 5:00. PM (noon until

5:00 PM on Sundays), so it is not possible to take sunset or night photos. Still, it offers the city's only bird's eye perspective of Baltimore, and there are endless photo opportunities for someone with a telephoto and a creative eye. The admission fee is \$2.00.

From atop the World Trade Center, you can look down upon two of Baltimore's most popular attractions: The **U.S.F. Constellation** and the **National Aquarium**. The Constellation is probably the city's most photographed attraction, One of the original frigates commissioned by the Continental Congress, she defeated the French Frigate L'Insurgente of the West Indies in 1799, served in the War of 1812, saw action against the Barbary pirates, and became the first U.S. ship-of-war to enter the inland waters of China in 1842. She is open seven days a week (hours are seasonal), and admission is \$2.25. But you can take dramatic photographs without even boarding the frigate. Use a telephoto lens to intensify the contrast between her 190 year old black masts and the neighboring glass and steel buildings. You can also use a telephoto to accentuate her white trimmings and the gold designs against her black hull. At sunset, set a tripod on the Pratt Street Pavilion's second story balcony to capture the dark silhouette of the Constellation's rigging against the red sky. At night, use a wide-angle lens to include both the ship and the Inner Harbor's lights.

Another maritime relic that surprises first-time visitors is a **submarine**, the **U.S.S. Torsk**. Built in 1944, she has the distinction of firing the last torpedo and sinking the last Japanese war ship of World War II. Today, the Torsk is berthed at the Inner Harbor alongside the National Aquarium (less than a minute's walk from the Constellation). She is open daily from 9:30 AM until 4:30 PM, and admission is \$2.50. Although I have never been inside the Torsk, I would imagine its interior is cramped and dark-probably a job for fast film and a wide angle lens. From the outside, the submarine stands apart from its neighbors (not many urban harbors feature a **floating submarine**). Given the eclectic nature of the Inner Harbor, the Torsk seems at home alongside the Constellation and whatever passenger and military vessels are visiting Baltimore's port at a given time. You can use this study in contrasts to your photographic advantage. Walk alongside the Torsk and marvel at the red savage teeth that line her black bow. Use a medium telephoto lens to isolate the conning tower's colorful decorations against the concrete and glass exterior of the World Trade Center.

The jewel of the Inner Harbor is the **National Aquarium**. Built atop a concrete base, it is home to over 8,000 specimens of 600 different types of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. Light is dim in most of the exhibits, so I recommend a combination of tripod and fast film. Light is not a problem in the aquarium's South American Rain Forest exhibit (which includes lush tropical vegetation and colorful birds). An outdoor pool houses harbor seals in a year-round exhibit. The seals are fed three times a day (10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 4:00 PM). The building's exterior is worth photographing. Set up a tripod outside the Light Street Pavilion just before dusk when its triangular glass and steel ceiling reflects the sun's orange glow. And don't miss the blue neon abstraction that adorns the aquarium's

exterior at night. Aquarium hours vary by season (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Thursday and 9:00 AM until 8:00 PM Friday through Sunday in the summer; 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily and 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM Friday in the winter). Admission is \$7.75.

Each of these attractions are within a two-minute walk of the World Trade Center. I cannot even begin to describe the endless variety of photo opportunities within the Inner Harbor. It is a great place to photograph people; street jugglers, comedians and musicians regularly attract large crowds while performing outdoors. Naval cruisers and tall ships from around the world frequently visit the Inner Harbor. Walk along the elevated skyway to discover the surreal reflections in the Hyatt Regency's blue glass exterior. Ride the Hyatt's glass elevators for an impressive view of the Inner Harbor. You can even take a daytime or moonlight cruise aboard the Bay Lady or Lady Baltimore. Destinations include Baltimore harbor (year-round), Annapolis (year-round), St. Michaels (seasonal) and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (October). Prices vary according to destination.

Every great city needs a magnificent red neon advertisement to dominate the night sky. In Baltimore, the Domino Sugars sign floats over the harbor, bathing its neighbors in an eerie reddish glow reminiscent of a 1940's film noir movie. Erected in 1951, it has become a colorful and enduring link with Baltimore's past. Indeed, the city seemed a little darker when the sign was turned off during the 1974 oil crisis. My memories of the sign date back 20 years when its red glow signaled that our annual family vacation drive from Maine back to Washington was almost over. In recent years, I have explored adjoining neighborhoods (and once walked along an elevated portion of 1-95) in search of the ultimate Domino Sugars photograph. So far, however, I haven't found a spot that rivals the view from atop Federal Hill. Walk around Federal Hill to find a building or other landmark that can be used to frame the sign and lend a sense of perspective. Using a tripod, and try different filters and shutter/aperture combinations. I would recommend overexposing by at least one stop to maximize detail surrounding the sign.

On the southern border of the Inner Harbor is Federal Hill. It takes 15 minutes to walk the distance from the World Trade Center to the top of Federal Hill. (You can see the flag atop Federal Hill from the Inner Harbor.) This is the place to set up your tripod and photograph the sunset over neighborhood row houses, churches and petroleum storage tanks. From this vantage point, the city's downtown skyscrapers provide a perfect backdrop for the Constellation and Aquarium. By walking around the perimeter of the park, you can also photograph the port and other industrial sections.

Within walking distance of the Inner Harbor is Little Italy. Featuring red brick dwellings with immaculate white marble stoops, this neighborhood has changed little over time despite nearby urban renewal. A short drive away is **Fell's Point**, one of the oldest working seaport districts in the nation. This maritime neighborhood dates back to the 1700's (where the Constellation was built and launched in 1797). Today, tugs and tankers dock near the neighborhood's cobblestone streets. Nearby warehouses and

trolley tracks make for interesting nighttime subjects. With quaint galleries and seafood restaurants, this area has recently become popular - (it's a pity Fotofax does not double as a dining guide - I could recommend Italian, Greek and seafood restaurants that would expand the consciousness of anyone's palate). Water taxis connect the Inner Harbor with Little Italy and Fell's Point, a fun ride.. You can also drive to Fell's Point by following Eastern Avenue (bordering the Inner Harbor) to Broadway Avenue.

Although food is the primary attraction at Lexington Market, it is also a wonderful place to observe and photograph people as they peddle (or consume) delicacies from around the world. Recently renovated, this 200-year-old enclosed marketplace offers the freshest and finest foods, sold at stalls that have been owned by the same families for several generations. Lighting is limited, so use fast film and a fast lens. Lexington Market is located about a mile north of the Inner Harbor at the corner of Paca and Lexington. The market is open every day but Sunday.

One of Baltimore's hidden treasures, the B&O Railroad Museum, is housed in a series of structures that date back to 1830. In fact, the first American railroad terminal was established on this site in 1829. The museum contains railroad artifacts, an intricate model train display, and dramatic black and white photos of locomotives at work. Study the photos and then step into the museum's 106-year-old roundhouse to view the real thing. Originally a repair facility, it now houses an extensive collection of steam locomotives and passenger cars. By using a tripod to compensate for the roundhouse's dark interior, you can photograph one of the world's oldest passenger cars and observe a rail car made from a 1940 Ford truck. The best part of the museum is its outdoor collection of 60 steam and diesel locomotives and passenger cars. Also on display are specialized machines like the "porcupine" car (which measured the width of tunnels) and the "submarine" car (used to transport molten steel). While outdoors, look for the gray and yellow art deco C&O locomotive and the blue streamline B&O passenger cars.

The museum is a short drive from the Inner Harbor at Pratt and Poppleton Streets. It is open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Wednesday through Sunday, and admission is \$4.00.

The Baltimore Orioles play 81 games a year at Memorial Stadium. This means that in the absence of post-season play, you have only 162 more chances to see major league baseball in one of the country's finest ball parks (the Orioles move to a new stadium in 1992). Bring a wide angle lens for expansive views of the stadium, and a telephoto lens for shots of players and fans. If you are interested in action shots, try to get seats along first or third base. Using a telephoto with fast film, you will be able to capture some professional quality shots. I have also used a 200mm lens in the cheapest bleacher seats (behind right field) to isolate the pitcher and batter. Because I tend to sit in the upper deck, I generally pack a couple of wide angle lenses for dramatic views of the entire ball park. You can even forget about the game and spend an afternoon photographing fans. And since the ball park is well lit, you shouldn't let an evening game deter you from using your camera. The stadium is located on East 33rd Street and the route to the ball park is well marked.

Prince William Forest Park - By Bob Brooks

Fotofax, January 1990

There is a place about 35 miles south of Washington that provides me with ample opportunities for nature and scenic photography. It is located on the edge of a densely populated area, but provides a vast woodland for a welcome retreat. The place is Prince William Forest Park under the control of the National Park Service. Before I describe its many features, I would like to give a brief history of how the park came to be what it is today, an oasis in the middle of construction.

Under Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" programs, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was established to provide employment and to reclaim degraded, unproductive land. The Chopowamsic Recreation Demonstration Area, which eventually became Prince William Forest Park, was one of the 46 recreation demonstration areas created. All but two of these areas were transferred back to the states. The exceptions were Prince William Forest Park and Catoctin Mountain Park, which were retained in the National Park System because of their close proximity to Washington.

The area that is Prince William Forest Park was not always a forest. In the early eighteenth century parts of the area were cleared for tobacco farming. Over the years as the land became depleted of nutrients the farmers turned to logging which further reduced the land cover. With no cover or nutrients the soil was washed away causing the silting of the Port of Dumfries.

By the early 1900's only a few farmers remained. For a short time a pyrite mine was operated on what is now park land. But in 1920, the mine was closed. The majority of people moved away, leaving behind abandoned farms and poor soil. So in 1933, the land was turned over to the CCC. In three years they constructed five large cabin camps, three dams, many trails and completed other works to claim the land for recreational use. In 1940 it was turned over to the National Park Service.

The park consists of approximately 16,000 acres on the watershed of Quantico Creek. It is bounded by route 619 on the south and west, route 234 on the north, and Interstate 95 to the east in the southeastern part of Prince William County. Located within the park are many features for all to enjoy. There are approximately 35 miles of hiking trails and fire roads. To walk these trails even without a camera has always been a real source of pleasure for me. Some of the trails follow along a stream for miles. Although there is no large waterfall in the park there are several places where the stream flows across rock formations providing "mini falls." The dams built by the CCC created four large bodies of water of which I am aware.

For those photographers who take wildlife pictures, the park has white-tail deer, wild turkeys, beaver and numerous smaller animals. In some areas of the park the beavers are quite active and have created several ponds with their dams. In addition to the

many wonders of nature, the hand of man is also evident. The cabins built by the CCC are still being used. Some traces of the old pyrite mine still exist. You can see where the old farms used to be and there are old grave yards which give evidence of those who used to live in the area before the park was created.

If you can find the time to visit Prince William Forest Park, you will be well rewarded. From the beltway take Interstate 95 south. After passing route 234, take the next exit (50B). It is marked as the park exit. Go west on route 619 about 200 yards to the park entrance. The admission fee is \$3.00. A yearly pass costs \$10.00. If you've never been there, I suggest you drive straight ahead to the Visitors' Center and get a map of the park, The rangers will be glad to help you find the most interesting features of the park, so don't hesitate to ask them for help.

I have been able to describe some of the history and features of the park, but I cannot express the feelings I get from being there. For me it is a nice quiet place to look and listen and think. I hope you enjoy your visit.

North Carolina's Outer Banks - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, February 1990

One of my favorite field trips in the seven years I have been an NVPS member was to North Carolina's Outer Banks. The Outer Banks consists of a series of barrier islands separating the Atlantic Ocean on the one side and Albemarle Sound and Pamlico Sound on the other. The islands are so narrow at some points that a strong hurricane can drive the surf from one shore to the other. Most houses are built on stilts so that water can pass underneath the building without doing damage. **Cape Hatteras National Seashore** extends 70 miles from South Nags Head to **Ocracoke Inlet**. The Outer Banks are home to many species of wildflowers and many should be in bloom sometime in May. These include spotted water hemlock, sweet bay, lance-leaved coreopsis, calliopsis, prickly pear cactus, beach heather, St. Andrew's cross, wild radish, buttercups, primroses, trumpet honeysuckle, gaillardia, Carolina wild pink, annual phlox, swamp rose, slender blue flag, blue toadflax, Venus' looking-glass, passion-flower, and seaside pennywort. If you like flowers, look for a copy of **Wildflowers of the Outer Banks: Kitty Hawk to Hatteras**. I bought a copy at the Wright Brothers National Memorial Visitor Center. It has excellent illustrations and very specific directions to locations where these species are likely to be found.

To get to the Outer Banks, take 1-95 south to Richmond where you should look for 1-295. Go east on 1-295 until you reach 1-64. Continue east on 1-64 through Newport News and Norfolk. Look for route 168 into North Carolina. Just across the North Carolina border is the town of Moyock. Look for a restaurant called Southland which is both excellent and inexpensive. Route 168 runs into route 12 which runs along the Outer Banks to Nags Head and points south. Our motel, the Sea Oatel, is in Nags Head at milepost 16-1/2 on Beach Road. Your first stop should probably be the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center which can provide you with a host of

sightseeing information including maps, restaurant listings, and brochures. You might want to write to them for advance information at Box 1757, Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina 27945. Their telephone number is (919) 441-8144.

The beaches of the Outer Banks are not crowded like the beaches of Maryland and Delaware. You can still find plenty of wild areas in which you can walk along the shore enjoying the surf, the birds, and other aspects of nature typical of the Atlantic shoreline. The further south you go, the less populated the area will be.

Nags Head is the largest town on the Outer Banks, and it makes an ideal headquarters for our spring field trip. According to local legend the town's name comes from an old practice of tying lanterns to ponies' necks at night and walking them along the beach. Ship captains would see the swinging lights, and thinking they were boats at anchor, would run their own ships aground. Waiting pirates would seize the cargo.

One of the great photo opportunities at Nags Head is the **sunrise** taken from the beach in front of the motel. A large fishing pier provides a classic silhouetted foreground. Some of my favorite images from our 1985 trip were taken here. While we are in Nags Head the sunrise will take place about 6:00 AM according to the National Weather Service in Buxton. (Sunset will be just before 8:00 PM.) I plan to be on the beach before the first color appears in the sky. If you are looking for an alternative location to shoot the sunrise, I recommend Coquina Beach located about 10 miles south of Nags Head. The ruins of the **shipwreck Laura A. Barnes** lie here, not far from where she went aground in high seas in 1921.

The highlight of our trip is likely to be the **hang-gliding competition held at Jockey's Ridge State Park**. In the park, located off U.S. 158 Bypass just north of the motel, you will find the highest sand dunes on the east coast. Since grasses do not grow in the dunes you can walk on the sand without damaging the habitat for local wildlife. You don't have to watch the hang-gliders from a distance. I expect to do most of my shooting here with my 35-105mm zoom lens, and I will certainly want my 24mm wide angle lens as well. Perhaps I will take my 200mm lens too. Save plenty of time to photograph this colorful activity as well as a variety of landscapes among the dunes. The appearance of the dunes is altered throughout the day as the color and direction of the sunlight change. I could be happy spending an entire day in this 400 acre park.

Not far north of Jockey Ridge is **Kill Devil Hills** and the **Wright Brothers National Memorial**. The Wright brothers did not make their famous flight at Kitty Hawk! (Kitty Hawk is the town from which reporters had to file their stories because there were no telephones in Kill Devil Hills.) The memorial is certainly worth a visit. Here you will find a full-scale replica of the Wright brothers' airplane. Our own former NVPS president, John Attinello, was involved in the creation of the replica!

There are many sights to see and photograph south of Nags Head. Not far south lies **Bodie Island Lighthouse**. In addition to photographing the lighthouse, there is a

boardwalk through Bodie Island Marsh which provides plenty of photo opportunities. Here you will find many birds including egrets, herons, and glossy ibis.

Continue south and cross the bridge to the **Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge**. Wildlife includes snow geese and many species of wildfowl during the winter months. In May we are more likely to find a large variety of wading, shore and upland birds. There are observation platforms near the parking area. I have visited the refuge once, and I didn't get close to many birds. However, others have told me they have been close enough to get good photographs. I had much more luck at the southern end of the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge at Oregon Inlet. Here I had a field day photographing pelicans and double-crested cormorants.

Continue South through Rodanthe where you may enjoy a visit to the **Chicamcomico Life Saving Station** where you can learn about many daring rescues.

Drive south to **Cape Hatteras** and the **Cape Hatteras Lighthouse**. This 208-foot structure, built in 1870, is the tallest lighthouse in the United States. When the lighthouse was built, the shoreline was more than 1500 feet away, but constant erosion has brought the ocean to within a few feet of its base. On my last visit I spent hours photographing surfers on this site. If you want to try it I recommend a 300mm or 400mm lens, a monopod, and Kodachrome 200 film.

Continue south on route 12 to the tip of Hatteras island. A free ferry takes cars across the Hatteras Inlet to **Ocracoke Island**. In May there will probably be one ferry every hour. I have never been this far south, but I am looking forward to visiting Ocracoke. About 10 miles from the northern tip of the island look for observation platforms from which you can watch wild ponies roam the beaches.

At the far end of the island, the tiny **village of Ocracoke**, in its isolation, has retained much of its early charm. The houses in this fishing village have pleasant yards with giant, moss covered oaks and yaupon trees. In the early 1700's, the pirate Blackbeard sold his booty here. He and his crew were killed at Teach's Hole in 1718. A Park Service Visitors Center near the harbor has nature displays and organized activities such as walks through the forests, lessons in riding the waves on "boogie" boards, and trips wading through the salt marshes on the bay side of the island. There is also a lighthouse in Ocracoke. In my three years as field trip chairman, the trip to the Outer Banks is tied with our visit to Chincoteague as my favorite.

North Carolina's Outer Banks (Continued) - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, March 1990

Last month I wrote about some of my favorite spots along North Carolina's Outer Banks, and in this month's column I will continue to describe attractions in this area. Since club members are headed there in May, I hope this information will help you plan your photographic efforts.

I called the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce at (919) 441-8144) and they sent me a large packet of information. Among the things I received was a huge street map of the area including Corolla, Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, Nags Head, Roanoke, Hatteras and Ocracoke Island. They would be an asset for everyone.

Last month I described only one of several ship wrecks visible along the Outer Banks, the Laura A. Barnes at Coquina Beach. There are others I have not visited including the Oriental, a Federal steam-powered transport. It can be seen on a beach 4.5 miles south of Oregon Inlet. From the rest area, walk over the dunes and look for the **boiler stack**, a massive pile of black metal. This is all that is left of the Union Army ship which sank almost 130 years ago. You can find a **third wreck** near the Hatteras Island Lighthouse. When you get to the parking lot turnoff, turn right at the stop sign and drive past the National Park Service district office and look for a small parking area with fish-cleaning stations, recognizable from the wide boards and water hoses. Park here and walk over the dunes. (Don't drive unless you have a four-wheeled vehicle.) On the other side of the dune, you will find a footpath on the right, about 45 degrees off the main road. Follow the path to the edge of a large salt pond and continue around the pond to the right. Just beyond a tern nesting station are the huge bow and rib timbers of the Altoona, a 100-foot schooner that sank in 1878. (By the way, the pond is often an excellent place to photograph wind surfers.) There are more famous wrecks along the Outer Banks such as the Civil War ironclad Monitor off Cape Hatteras and a World War II German submarine off Coquina Beach. However, these are underwater. Depending on the shifting sands, other wrecks may be seen. Watch for signs at the rest areas with a symbol of a sinking ship. These signs indicate that a wreck is visible on the nearby shore.

Consider visiting **Roanoke Island**. Drive south from Nags Head to Whalebone Junction and look for U.S. 64/264 over a bridge to the island. The two main areas on the island are the towns of Manteo and Wanchese. Four miles west on Manteo is Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. The first English colony was located here (1585-86), and the first child born in the New World of English parents, Virginia Dare, was born here. The colony disappeared for unknown reasons, but its history is celebrated on stage during the summer months in 'The Lost Colony. II Andy Griffith got his start in this play. The fort has been restored. Several historic exhibits tell what is known about the colony and its mysterious disappearance.

Cherry Blossoms & Gardens - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, April 1990

My worst fears have been realized. I planned to write about where to go to photograph flowers and flowering trees for the April issue. However, thanks to our bizarre weather this spring the cherry blossoms have come and gone. My column remained in my word processor, and I will publish it anyway. You can wait until next year to read the first few paragraphs.

I don't like cherry blossoms against gray skies, so I begin my photographic efforts on the first clear day after the trees come into bloom. The less wind there is, the better off you will be. Be sure to take a sturdy tripod. I go first to the Tidal Basin and arrive there before sunrise. One reason to go at dawn is that you will be able to find a parking place easily. My favorite spot is opposite the side of the Jefferson Memorial where you can get a profile view of the Jefferson statue seen between the marble columns. Walk back and forth until you find the exact spot where the statue can be seen best. The memorial will be dark on the outside producing a wonderful dark reflection in water lighted by the early morning sky. A half hour before sunrise is ideal. The sun comes up over the right side of the memorial. The monument is beautifully framed with cherry blossoms.

Once the sun has risen, I begin my walk around the Tidal Basin. It is still early enough so there aren't too many people in my way. I walk leisurely watching for new compositions I haven't seen in previous years. I often make two circuits changing directions on the second. I see different picture possibilities depending on which way I face. During the early hours there aren't as many people in my way and the morning light can be wonderful. (Late afternoon light is excellent too, but there aren't any parking places closer than Ohio.) By 9:00 AM the light is much less dramatic than it is just after dawn so I relinquish my parking space to the tourists who by now are engaged in fisticuffs over the tiniest of spaces at the side of the road.

The next stop is the Kenwood residential district off River Road in Bethesda. Take River Road from the beltway and watch on the left for **Brookside Drive**. It is just beyond the Kenwood Country Club. Enter the neighborhood by turning left on Brookside Drive and take your time exploring. There are more cherry trees here than at the Tidal Basin. Blossoms form a canopy over every street. More often than not the Kenwood trees peak a day or two after those at the Tidal Basin. Be prepared to do architectural photography. The homes, all surrounded by flowering trees, are lovely any time of the year. Traffic can be heavy in Kenwood during cherry blossom time, so I usually try to go on a weekday morning. I try to get there as early as possible.

There are other places to photograph cherry blossoms, but I'll mention only one, the National Cathedral on Wisconsin Avenue. Some of you probably have other favorite spots and I would love to hear about them.

Washington is blessed with several gardens and my favorite is **Brookside Gardens in Wheaton**. Here you will find 50 acres of carefully landscaped gardens with two conservatories, a rose garden, an azalea garden, and a Japanese tea house. I usually head straight for the roses or the tulips, but I also have a great fondness for the water gardens.

One reason I love Brookside Gardens is that tripods are allowed everywhere except in the conservatories. But do be respectful of the flowers and the caretakers who expend so much effort. Keep your tripod out of the flower beds! (A sturdy tripod, especially one that allows you to photograph close to ground level, is important when making images of flowers.) At Brookside, as in other gardens, I find my 200mm macro lens most useful. It allows me to fill the frame with my subject without stepping on flowers and, as with all long lenses, I have better background control. I also find my 300mm lens with a small extension tube useful, especially at the water gardens where it is important to stay dry.

The official hours at Brookside are 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM every day except Christmas. In practice, the gates usually open about 8:30 AM, sometimes much earlier. You can almost always walk in at any time of the day or night. It's best to make your images early in the warm morning light, especially if the flowers are covered with dew. I hate to spray flowers because it never looks quite natural. But if you must spray, use a mixture of one part glycerin and three parts water. Be careful how you carry the spray bottle. They tend to leak in camera bags.

To get to Brookside Gardens take the beltway to the Georgia Avenue exit, route 97 north. At the twelfth traffic signal turn right on Randolph Road. Go two more traffic lights and turn right onto Glenallan Avenue. Go 0.6 miles and look for the park entrance on the right. Call 949-8230 before you go. You will get a recording telling you which flowers are currently in bloom.

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in the District of Columbia is my favorite water garden. It is the largest garden in the District of Columbia and it is the largest garden in the country devoted exclusively to aquatic plants. July and August are the peak months for water lilies, lotuses, and other aquatic plants as well as a variety of wildflowers. I recommend that you be there when the garden opens (about 7:00 AM) so that you can make your images before the wind gets too strong and the humidity too high. Again, I recommend long lenses because most of your subjects will be in the water. At Kenilworth you will find non-flowering subjects too. It's a good birding spot. Herons are often seen there and occasionally a bald eagle is sighted. There are also plenty of frogs, butterflies, and other insects.

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens can be a trouble spot for those who go alone. I recommend groups of 3 or 4 people. Cameras do get stolen here. To get there from Virginia get on 1-295 north. Pass exits for Suitland Parkway and Pennsylvania Avenue. Take the Eastern Avenue exit. Go up the ramp and make the first left before the traffic light. This allows you to do a U-turn. Take the second right turn onto N. E.

Douglas Street, following the sign to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Very shortly, Douglas Street dead ends at N.E. Anacostia Avenue. Turn right. The entrance to the gardens is about 200 feet on the left. It is the first left.

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is located across the Anacostia River from the **National Arboretum**, but there is no easy way to cross the water. It was once rumored that the National Park Service was planning to provide boat service between the two gardens, but they never did. You will have to drive into the District and take New York Avenue (route 50) east. Look for the Arboretum on the right about half a block beyond Bladensburg Road. The Arboretum is open every day except Christmas 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 PM weekdays and 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM Saturday and Sunday.

The National Arboretum consists of 444 acres of beautiful trees and flowers. The flowers are not as concentrated as in other gardens. Nevertheless, you will find plenty to photograph here. Azaleas and day lilies are my favorites at the Arboretum. There is no recorded message to tell you what is in bloom, but there is a printed blooming calendar which you can get at the visitors center.

There are many other local garden spots. Dumbarton Oaks in the District provides about 10 acres of flowers and is certainly worth a visit. The entrance is located near the corner of 32nd and R streets, N. W. Parking is difficult and tripods are forbidden. The gardens are open daily from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM.

We are within driving distance of many beautiful gardens. My favorites are **Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania** as well as **Winterthur Gardens** and the gardens at the Nemours Mansion, both near **Wilmington, Delaware**. I don't have enough space to describe these attractions. Perhaps I can cover them in another On Location column. I mention these northern attractions, in part, because there is a field trip scheduled to Winterthur Gardens this month. The gardens are well worth a visit and tripods are permitted. Winterthur is a favorite spot of mine. If you have never been there, join the trip for a real treat.

If you want to find other gardens to visit, go to your favorite bookstore and buy a copy of [One-Day Trips to Beauty & Bounty](#) by Jane Ockershausen Smith. Happy shooting!

Ocean City, Maryland - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, June 1990

If I were headed to the beach to swim or get a sun tan it would never occur to me to go to Ocean City, Maryland. I hate the crowds one encounters in the heat of the summer. Nevertheless, I have often found myself headed to Ocean City on photographic missions. It is one of my favorite places to go to take pictures of people, and I find the opportunities for night photography especially exciting. I strongly urge you to go in the middle of the week and avoid the horrendous traffic typical of weekends.

I find it difficult to get to Ocean City. The directions are simple enough. Take route 50 east from Washington and it takes you directly to your destination. For better or for worse, there are lots of photographic diversions.

If I leave very early in the morning I usually stop at Sandy Point State Park which is near Annapolis just before you get to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. This is a wonderful spot to photograph the sunrise. You have to leave your car at the park entrance and walk to the beach because the park doesn't open that early. The distance is not too great. The park is also the location of an annual skipjack race.

Cambridge is a trouble spot too. Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is located south of town, and I just can't resist visiting the marsh to see if I can spot the bald eagles that nest here. By then it's too late. I can occupy myself for endless hours photographing the herons, egrets, ducks, geese, and other birds that are so abundant here. In 1985 I set out for Ocean City and found myself spending the entire day at Blackwater. When the sun set, I went home. The next day I left early for Ocean City determined to go directly to my destination. When the sun set over Blackwater once again, I was tired, and returned home. The next day I set out even earlier for Ocean City. I didn't get there until evening. Guess where I spent most of the day! The driving time should have been about three and a half hours, not three days!

About 30 miles beyond Cambridge is **Salisbury**. Never stop here! The small zoo next to the Civic Center provides many opportunities to get very close to the animals. This is where Sherwin and I photographed peacocks the last time we tried to get to Ocean City. Just cross Salisbury right off your map. It's a very dangerous place to stop.

In the unlikely event that you reach Ocean City I recommend that you park at the southern end of town. Walk north along the boardwalk or the beach photographing people at play. I often use my 300mm lens. I also like photographing the stores and signs along the boardwalk.

You will quickly come to the amusement pier at the foot of Wicomico Street (pronounced wy-ko-mi ko with the accent on the second syllable). This is a very good spot to photograph people enjoying the carnival rides and other activities. The amusements are subject to change, but last year there was a large water slide on the pier. It was arranged in such a way that it was very easy to get close to the slide for interesting compositions. Before you move in close watch which way the spray flies.

Near the pier you will find **Trimper's Carnival Rides**. I usually take night pictures here, especially long time exposures with moving lights tracing interesting patterns of light on the film. A tripod is essential. There are daytime opportunities here, too.

A little farther north turn left off the boardwalk onto Third Street and walk three blocks to St. Louis Avenue. On the right you will see Ocean Bowl Skatepark containing a large half-pipe ramp and a concrete bowl. If you have never tried skateboard photography get up on the platform at the top of the ramp and give it a try. I

recommend using a medium speed film such as Kodachrome 200 and a wide angle lens. This is not my favorite ramp for photographing skate boarders. The background is very cluttered no matter which direction you shoot. Late afternoon is the best time to find skaters. Many skate after they finish work, and it's a bit cooler late in the day.

I enjoy photographing people at night on the boardwalk and in the arcades. For this I put my camera on a monopod and use high-speed film. My favorite is Ektachrome EES slide film which can be shot at ISO 800 or 1600. Just remember to tell the processor which speed you used. If you try taking pictures in any of the business establishments ask permission first. Some of the shop operators are very touchy about having pictures taken on their property. Others will welcome you.

One nearby attraction I have never visited might be worth exploring, Assateague State Park just south of Ocean City. Leave Ocean City on route 50 but turn south on route 611. This leads directly to the park where you will find more beaches and wild ponies.

Lexington, Virginia - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, September, 1990

Lexington, Virginia, located in the southern portion of the Shenandoah Valley between the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, will be our destination for the NVPS fall field trip. The Lexington area offers something for every photographer: scenic splendor, historic sites, picturesque towns, national parks, and much more.

Stop first at the **Lexington Visitor Center** at 102 East Washington Street (703-463-3777, open 9-5 daily). Lexington has many well-preserved 19th century buildings, and at the Visitor Center you can get information on walking tours of the historic districts. Points of interest are **Washington and Lee University**, founded in 1749, Lee Chapel in which General Robert E. Lee is buried, **Virginia Military Institute**, founded in 1839 and known today as the "West Point of the South," and **the Stonewall Jackson House**.

One of America's great natural wonders, 14 miles south of Lexington on U.S. route 11, is the **Natural Bridge**, 215 feet above Cedar Creek, 90 feet long and from 50 to 150 feet wide. About 1750, George Washington cut his initials in the side of the arch. After dark, see "The Drama of Creation, li a spectacular sound and light show depicting the seven days of creation. I have seen pictures of the light show, and if we are permitted to take pictures we will have an unusual opportunity for night photography. Call 1-800-533-1410 (in Virginia) or 1-800-336-5727 (outside Virginia) for further information.

There is plenty of natural scenery to photograph. Try a side trip through **Goshen Pass** on route 39 west from Lexington to Bath County. You could also take route 220 south from Warm Springs toward **Covington** to visit the **Allegheny Central Scenic Railroad**. Take a two-hour trip through the Jackson River Valley behind a full-sized steam locomotive. Call (703) 962-2253 for a schedule and information on rates.

Throughout Bath County and the area called the Allegheny Highlands, you will find many **picturesque mountain towns** including Clifton Forge, Hot Springs, Warm Springs, and White Sulphur Springs. Don't miss the Humpback Bridge, an unusual covered bridge located west of Covington on U.S. route 60.

For other scenic excursions drive The Valley Pike (U.S. route 11) or The West Trail (U.S. route 60) through Rockbridge County. East of Lexington, take U.S. route 60 through Buena Vista to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

To get to Lexington, take 1-66 West from the Washington Beltway. Stop at the Virginia Information Center just east of Manassas for brochures on the Lexington area. Continue west to the Gainesville exit and drive west to Warrenton. At Warrenton, take U.S. 211 toward Luray. Cross Skyline Drive, go beyond Luray to New Market. From New Market, take 1-81 to Lexington. An alternate route could be Skyline Drive south to Waynesboro, getting on 1-64 West, and taking it to 1-81.

The National Zoo - by Linda Densmore

Fotofax, November 1990

At the National Zoo, if you haven't been there for a while, you'll be happily surprised by the improvements, (Elephant House interior, Olmstead Walk, the bookstore) and the new exhibits (Pandas, Invertebrates, the Wetlands, Gibbon Ridge). Under several directors, the zoo is becoming a "biological park." The result is much more attention to complete ecosystems of plants and animals. It has become a lot easier to photograph the animals in "natural" surroundings.

There are two main walkways through the zoo: Olmstead Walk and Valley Trail. Since the National Zoo is located on a steep hill, you might want to park at the bottom (lots D & E) so your return can be downhill!

Olmstead walk passes the largest animals (elephants, hippos, giraffes) and the smallest (the invertebrates). The interior of the Elephant House now includes ceramic art by high school students, a pond of goldfish, and a palm-covered viewing platform near the giraffes. Near the Panda Plaza Gift Shop is a small pond with giant water lilies. Work your way down the hill to Gibbon Ridge, where two families of gibbons have the space to do what they do best: swing on ropes and rings with breathtaking abandon. If you're there early, you'll be treated to their duets, which awaken their human neighbors for miles around!

Between Gibbon Ridge and the Reptile House is a carved tree trunk that can provide interesting photos and lots of fun just trying to see every animal depicted (intertwined carvings the artist achieved with chisel and chainsaw).

Behind Reptiles is the entrance to the Invertebrates. Outside is a butterfly garden to rival any rural meadow. The Invertebrate Exhibit opens at 9:00 a.m. on weekends, 10:00 a.m. on Wed -Fri, and is closed Mon and Tue. It's dark and dramatically lit and

beautiful (I volunteer there, by the way! I'm usually there Sunday mornings and if we're not busy I can take you "behind the scenes"). Be sure to go early, preferably on a cold, rainy day if you want the most unobstructed views of the giant octopus, the coral reef, and the huge and colorful cold-water anemones.

Near the beginning of Valley Trail (back at the top of the hill) is the Wetlands, with a raised boardwalk between ponds of fish, turtles, frogs, and fowl. There are egrets, many species of ducks, pelicans, and others. I've shot this exhibit at daybreak in December and just before sunset in the Summer. You'll forget you're in the city!

If you visit the zoo in summer there should be a free-ranging family of Golden Lion tamarins just before the otter and beaver exhibits. If you're lucky, you can get close-ups of these gorgeous tiny monkeys with bright gold colored manes. They are there to learn survival skills before being released into the Brazilian rain forests. At the sea lion exhibit there's an underwater viewing area that can provide great shots of these streamlined swimmers gliding by.

Of course, the best time to take photographs at the zoo is early morning on cool days, when the wild animals are active and alert (and most of the domestic ones - humans are still asleep!). The grounds officially open at 8:00 a.m. but you can go in much earlier. Evenings can be really nice, too, and in summer it's not crowded after 5:00 p.m. Between September 16 and April 30, the zoo closes at 6:00 p.m. Buildings are open 9:00 to 4:30). Parking fees have increased, though if you're out by 10:00 a.m. the cost is minimal. Think of becoming a member of the zoo, and, not only do you get a free gift, but also parking is free! A hint if you should arrive by Metro: get off at Cleveland Park and walk back. It's one less hill to climb.

St. Mary's City - by Sherwin Kaplan

Fotofax, September 1992

Historic St. Mary's City is located in Southern Maryland, on the west side of Chesapeake Bay, about two hours from Washington. To get there, take Maryland Route 5, which, in our part of the world is Branch Avenue. To get to Branch Avenue, take exit 7 south from the Beltway (near Andrews Air Force Base), or, if you want to drive through the District, take Pennsylvania Avenue SE. to Branch Avenue. You can either stay on Route 5 all the way to St. Mary's City or take U.S. 301 (which runs with State Route 5 for a while) to State Route 234. Route 234 meets State Route 5 near Leonardtown and 5 will take you to St. Mary's City. Once there, signs direct you to the Visitor Center.

In St. Mary's City there are walking tours, led by guides in 17th century costume, of a tobacco plantation and the town center, and there are living history demonstrations, including at least one trial at the Provincial Court in the State House. Of particular interest photographically is the **Maryland Dove**, an authentic working reconstruction of a 1630's square-rigged merchant vessel. The ship is colorful (there are many

opportunities for close-up shots of its details) and, on a nice day, its location on the St. Mary's River can make for some beautiful scenics.

Other photo opportunities near St. Mary's City include **Point Lookout State Park** at the tip of the peninsula at the end of State Route 5 and St. George Island at the end of State Road 249. On the way to Point Lookout State Park, you will pass a Confederate War Memorial, allegedly the only one on Northern soil. During the Civil War, a large camp for Confederate prisoners was located at Point Lookout.) On the way to St. George Island is a turnoff to the Piney Point Lighthouse. Don't bother - it is neither photogenic nor worth the trip.

An alternative to taking State Route 5 to Point Lookout is to take Maryland State Route 4 across the Patuxent River to Solomons Island, a good place for an afternoon snack, interesting structures (both on land and on water) and some nice scenics. Returning north on State Route 4, you can stop at either (or both) Calvert Cliffs State Park (dramatic cliffs rising above the waters of Chesapeake Bay) or Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, the northernmost stand of bald cypress in the United States.

If these stops haven't filled your day (or weekend), almost every side road in the area leads to water and, in good weather, interesting scenics. Birds abound and other wildlife can sometimes be seen and, if you are lucky, photographed. There are also old houses and plantations and various naval and maritime museums. All in all, an area well worth exploring.

Hike to Hoover Camp - by Gretchen Koisrud

Fotofax, October 1992

As the nights lengthen and an edge of crisp coolness underlies the heat of day my thoughts increasingly turn to photo hikes, hopefully blessed with fall color. One of my favorite nearby locations is Shenandoah National Park, 88 miles from Washington, DC. This On Location is not a comprehensive guide to the fine hiking and photographic opportunities in Shenandoah National Park. Rather, it is a description of one of my favorite hikes, the hike to Hoover Camp, and it contains some ancillary information on accommodations and a very special restaurant.

Hoover Camp, in Shenandoah National Park, was President Hoovers Camp David. When Hoover dispatched his aides to find a presidential retreat, he set three criteria: that the camp be within 100 miles of Washington, DC; that it be on a good trout stream; and that it be at an elevation that defeats mosquitoes. (I don't recall what this is but 2500 feet comes to mind.) The resulting site is at the junction of two streams, the Mill Prong and the Laurel Prong, which meet just below the cabin used by President Hoover and his family, and form the Rapidan River. Besides Hoover's cabin, other buildings still stand on the grounds today and these, plus other now vanished sites of historical significance, are described on markers around the camp.

President Hoovers lodge is an operational facility. Presidential assistants and Congressional personnel and their staff book the cabin for vacations. Thus, you may find the site occupied if you take the hike described here. This is not a problem. You can roam the grounds, use the picnic tables, explore the edges of the streams and photograph the beautiful confluence of the Mill Prong and Laurel Prong. Respect for the privacy of folks in residence does mean that you can't peek in the windows or picnic on the deck of Hoovers lodge as you can when the cabin is clearly unoccupied.

Useful Information: The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club in Vienna, VA produces the highly useful Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park, hereafter referred to as Circuit Hikes. Its available at various outdoor stores or call the PATC at 703-242-0965 for information. More than 20 circuit (meaning that your return does not cover the same ground) hikes are described in this book with directions to the trailhead, the distance in miles of various sections of the trail, the estimated time to hike the circuit, the change in elevation along the hike, and a narrative description of what you will see and what to look for.

If you are a devotee of topographic maps, also consider purchasing the PATC Shenandoah Central District Map. This map covers the middle section of Shenandoah National Park including the hike discussed in this column.

Planning Your Trip. Shenandoah National Park is within a 2 hour drive of the DC area so you can do this hike in a day. However, it is more fun to take at least an overnight which allows you to do more trails (such as Rose River or Hazel Country or Stony Man-see Circuit Hikes) and facilitates doing sunrise and/or sunset.

If you can stay overnight there are a number of options. The Inn Towne Motel in Luray is clean, comfortable, and reasonable. It has a restaurant (open for breakfast as well as other meals) and is located in downtown Luray, across the street from the charming old Mimslyn Inn (which sometimes has excellent food and sometimes disappointing fare). If you want to combine a visit to Luray Caverns with your photo hike in the Shenandoah this is an especially good place to stay.

In the National Park itself there are lodges at Skyland and Big Meadows (mileposts 41 and 51 respectively) and a campground at Big Meadows. Distances along Skyline Drive are measured by mileposts, recorded on concrete pillars along the drive. Thornton Gap, where you will enter the park, see below, is located between mileposts 31 and 32.) While park accommodations are likely to be booked months in advance, there are often cancellations. If you appear at the desk of either Big Meadows or Skyland around 6 pm you are likely to find a room. The Skyland season is approximately April through mid-December while Big Meadows provides accommodations from approximately mid-May through the end of October. For reservations call (703) 999-2211 (Skyland) or (703) 999-2221 (Big Meadows.)

For a special treat, combine your visit with dinner at **The Inn at Little Washington**, just off route 211 a few miles before Sperryville. This is one of the finest restaurants in

the DC area, despite its location more than an hour from the city. The wall decor and ceilings were done by painters and crafts-persons brought here from Italy. The wood (cherry?) of the fine dining room tables is smooth as silk and virtually glows. The food, its presentation, and service are without compare. If you are feeling really flush, or celebrating a special occasion where price is no object, you can stay overnight in one of several sumptuous rooms. At last check, reservations for dinner were taken no more than three weeks ahead. If you wanted them for dinner on Saturday night you were best advised to phone at 9 a.m. Saturday morning, three weeks before.

Getting There: From the western edge of the beltway, take 1-66 west. Take the Warrenton exit west onto route 29. At Warrenton, follow route 211 to Thornton Gap on Skyline Drive. On your way, you will enter the outskirts of Sperryville and see a sign for the Emporium. This is the best of the TT's (Tourist Traps) on this drive and I, who eschew TTs, always stop here for a drink of ice cold cider. The Emporium also has facilities. It is open year round.

Thornton Gap is a major point of entry to Shenandoah National Park and to Skyline Drive which bisects the Park and is the site of trailheads for many of the hikes within the Park. You will have to pay a fee (\$5 for a day pass) or show a Golden Eagle pass (\$25 and good for a year at all national parks).

From Thornton Gap, drive south on Skyline Drive. After about 20 miles, and about a half mile beyond milepost 52, look for a parking lot on the right at Milarn Gap. Park as close as you can to the Park Service trailhead map at one end of the parking lot.

The Hike: (This description differs somewhat from the description in my edition of Circuit Hikes, which has you park at Big Meadows Wayside just beyond milepost 51.) Cross Skyline Drive and pick up the Mill Prong Trail. In about 3/4 mile the Mill Prong Horse Trail will intersect your trail from the left. Do not take the horse trail (easily avoided since it is uphill). Continue along the Mill Prong Trail and the gurgling river (with its moss, cascades and photo ops) to Big Rock Falls in another quarter mile or so. The Falls is not enormous, perhaps 35 feet high, but is attractive and a nice photo op. After pausing to make some pictures, look for where the trail crosses the Mill Prong and cross the stream. Continue hiking with the stream now on your left. The trail moves increasingly higher above the stream bed but the moss and cascades will draw your eye and your camera to the pictures below.

In another half mile or so you will come to the intersection with the Laurel Prong Trail and Rapidan Road. Look for the path into Hoover Camp with its cabins of dark wood among the trees. Walk along the paths in the camp and read the interesting historical signs. Walk around Hoovers cabin to the little bridge across the Mill Prong stream just before its junction with the Laurel Prong. Cross the bridge, bushwhack down to the junction of the streams, and admire the headwaters of the Rapidan River. There are lots of nice cascades to photograph here and further bushwhacking along the newly formed Rapidan leads to more. Moss grows in abundance, further enhancing your photo ops.

Before you expend too much energy hiking down the shores of the Rapidan remember that the hike out, like the hike in, involves an elevation change of about 1200 feet but this time its up, not down. Allow about an hour for the hike out if you are a relatively fast walker, longer if you like to walk slowly and/or rest.

Virginia's Route 231 - by Carolyn O'Connor

Fotofax, November 1992

I've always loved the mountains of Virginia. There is a peacefulness and serenity about them that soothes those of us who are weary of the pace and traffic of the Washington area. Madison County, Virginia is one of the places where I enjoy (and photograph!) these mountains within an hour and a half of Washington.

You might want to combine the travels I'll describe below with those suggested by Gretchen in the October "On Location" column, especially if you are planning an overnight. As Gretchen wrote; "From the western edge of the beltway, take 1-66 West. Take the Warrenton exit west onto Route 29. At Warrenton, follow route 211 ... ". When you reach Sperryville, the home of the Emporium, our directions diverge. Follow the signs to 231 South. You'll take a short jaunt on 522 to get to a right onto 231.)

Once on 231 south, you will be in the **FTB Valley**. (If you find out what FTB stands for, please let me know!) Now, just open your eyes and start shooting. If you love landscapes, you can't miss. To the right and across the rolling hills is the Skyline Drive. Roads lead off to the right; any of these will lead you to scenic beauty. Those of you with a good sense of direction will be able to roam these roads and find your way back to 231. However, the rest of us would be in good company with the Virginia Atlas and Gazette published by DeLorme Mapping Company and available in sporting goods stores, maybe in a well stocked book store.

One of my favorite roads is Route 707 West, which will take you to **Nethers**. This route has some wonderful views of Old Rag Mountain, the Hughes River, and trout fishermen. You can return to Route 231 by returning as you came on 707. Or you can come back on 707 less than one mile, then make a right turn on Route 646 which will take you back to 231 south of 707.

Continue on 231 South less than a mile to **Etlan**. You'll recognize it by the General Store on the left. You can get sandwiches and cold drinks there, and if you're lucky, some good shots of the locals sitting on the bench in front.

Drivedown the valley until you reach **Banco** (4-5 miles). The views along this stretch are something else, especially at sundown. Turn right on Route 600. This will take you through Criglersville. Follow the signs to **Syria**. This roads runs along side the Robinson River. Once you arrive in Syria, enjoy the apple orchards and apple market. Then follow the signs to White Oak Canyon. A hike up to the 70 foot falls takes an hour or so. The trail goes along White Oak Run through a very old hemlock forest. It's worth it!

Return to Syria, turn right to Graves Mountain Lodge. If it's the lunch or dinner hour, head up to the Lodge for home cooking, served family style. They are open from March through November. If you continue past Graves Mountain, you will see signs leading you to the Rose River Vineyards. Reward yourself with some tastings!

Once you've returned to Banco (same route by which you got there), turn right onto 231 South again to Madison, the county seat of Madison County. One of the sights along the way on the right is a set of the three crosses at the **Ark of Safety** - a small open air revival center with a lot of character.

The town of Madison has interesting old homes for those of you interested in architectural photography. Don't miss the **old hardware store** just off the main street (sorry I don't know the street name-just ask a local); it will take you back a few years. **Beulah's**, the town's home-cooking restaurant is right there on Main Street and serves a great lunch extremely cheaply every day except Sunday. Just across the side street from Beulah's is an old abandoned building with great possibilities.

To get home, follow 231 South to the end of Madison where it intersects with Route 29. Take 29 North through Culpeper to Warrenton. Happy shooting!

Harpers Ferry - by Gary Silverstein

Fotofax, December 1992

Looking for a little bit of New England in your own backyard? Take a scenic drive out to the old historic towns of Harpers Ferry and Ellicott City. Although located in opposite directions, I have chosen to write about them together because they are my favorite local small-town destinations.

Harpers Ferry is located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers in the Blue Ridge Mountains of West Virginia. The town, rich in industrial and Civil War history, got its name from the millwright Robert Harper who took over an existing ferry service in 1747. Fifty years later President Washington persuaded Congress to situate a federal armory at this site. By the time the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Railroad opened in the 1830's, Harpers Ferry had been transformed into a thriving industrial community. However, John Brown's raid in October 1859, the burning of the armory in 1861 (to prevent a Confederate takeover), the Civil War (during which both Union and Confederate troops occupied the village), and a series of destructive floods combined to spell economic doom for Harpers Ferry. Fortunately, the town has been restored by the National Park Service to reflect the lifestyle of a mid-19th Century industrialized community. For persons with an interest in history, the National park at Harpers Ferry contains museums devoted to **John Brown's raids**, the **Civil War**, and **19th Century technology**.

My love of Harpers Ferry, however, has less to do with history and everything to do with unparalleled beauty. The town itself presents an abundance of photographic

subjects. Old brick buildings line its narrow streets, and stone walkways wind their way around steep hills. The view from atop these hills encompasses two rivers, three states and several mountains. The Appalachian Trail also crosses through Harpers Ferry's historic district and into the surrounding hills. Across the Potomac River, steep mountains and the rocky cliffs atop Maryland Heights make a stunning backdrop. Look for the advertisement in the rocks below Maryland Heights that the Park Service unsuccessfully tried to paint over in 1963.

My favorite times to visit are late October (when autumn colors are at their peak) and early December. This year, the annual Old Tyme Christmas occurs during the first two weeks of December. Harpers Ferry comes alive as "flickering candles light the evening path" and street carolers serenade their way through the town's streets, I am told, although I've never seen it, that Harpers Ferry is beautiful after a heavy snowfall.

There is an abundance of hiking trails in and around Harpers Ferry. One footpath leads through town, up stone steps (cut into natural rock at the turn of the 19th century) and past St. Peter's Catholic Church (1830's) to Jefferson Rock. This site is named for Thomas Jefferson who, in 1783, visiting the configuration of rocks and proclaimed the view "worth a voyage across the Atlantic." Given that recommendation, I dare say the panorama is at least worth the one-hour drive from northern Virginia.

On the Maryland side of the Potomac River, the Grant Conway Trail leads to rocky cliffs atop Maryland Heights which offer a spectacular view of Harpers Ferry, the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, and the nearby mountain. The view at sunset is extraordinary, especially when looking down upon the town and light reflected in the two rivers. The hike takes 30-45 minutes, and is somewhat steep in some places. At the bottom of this trail is one of the most exquisite and peaceful sections of the C&O Canal, especially as it heads west towards Shepherdstown. You can reach these trails by crossing over the Potomac River on a pedestrian footbridge that parallels the B&O Railroad bridge.

There are two automobile bridges with pedestrian walkways that offer excellent views for photography. The first crosses the Potomac River about a mile south of Harpers Ferry. The southwestern vista includes mountains and small islands in the Potomac. The second bridge, crossing the Shenandoah River, is especially lovely at dusk when the sun sets off the northwestern side.

Harpers Ferry is very different at night. Automobile and pedestrian traffic disappear, as does much of the artificial light. Freight and passenger trains regularly run through town and across the Potomac River-an especially eerie and lonely sensation after dark when the town is all but deserted. A scarcity of street lights in the downtown areas forces the photographers to look a little harder for nighttime subjects. Relying on artificial light, look for areas along High and Potomac Streets where the town's few street lights and store windows illuminate the stone and brick structures. The outline of the mountain makes for a lovely backdrop, especially on moonlit nights. The train station, nondescript by day, can be delightfully spooky at nightfall. Speaking of

spooky, a private company offers Ghostly Tours of Harpers Ferry. The tour, which highlights the town's haunted spots, meets opposite the train on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights at 8:00 p.m. (May through early November). Reservations are required in October and November. Call (301) 725-8019 for reservation and more information. To get to Harpers Ferry, take Route 7 west towards Leesburg. Just before Leesburg, head north on Route 15 across the Potomac River to Route 464 (there will be a sign for Harpers Ferry). Take a left on Route 464 and continue until Route 340. Head west on Route 340 and follow the signs to Harpers Ferry. There is limited free parking available in the historic downtown area (two hour time limit). National Park Service parking and shuttle bus service is available just outside of town. The parking lot includes a visitor's center that provides an excellent map and history of Harpers Ferry and its environs.

Ellicott City, Maryland is also an old railroad and mill town. Established in 1772, the town gained national fame in 1831 when it was the scene of the historical race between the Tom Thumb locomotive and a horse. Like Harpers Ferry, the town was devastated by a flood in 1868 (and again in 1872, by Hurricane Agnes). Today, however, many of Ellicott City's original buildings are still standing, including the original B&O Railroad Station that was constructed in 1831 (it is now a museum). The town's distinctive gray stone architecture includes the Colonial Inn and Opera House (where John Wilkes Booth is reported to have made his debut), the former Patapsco Hotel, the Old County Fire Department Building and the Ellicott County Store (circa 1970).

Part of Ellicott City's charm and beauty comes from its setting among the hills near Patapsco State Park. With its narrow winding streets, it is also a wonderful place to wander and browse. Antique lovers will enjoy the many shops devoted to historical relics, furniture and other odds and ends. Photographers will also find much to occupy their time. Bring along a macro lens to capture store windows displaying cut glass, rustic decorations, and neon signs.

To get to Ellicott City, take the Beltway to Exit 30 (Route 29 towards Columbia) in Maryland. Stay on Route 29 (Colesville, Road, which turns into Columbia Pike) for approximately 15 miles. Just beyond Columbia, follow the exit signs for Old Columbia Pike and Ellicott City. There is a large parking lot in the center of town.

Washington County - By Bill Kreykenbohm

Fotofax, January 1993

Washington County is where I was born and raised. I take for granted some scenes you may consider photo opportunities. With this warning in mind, I will give you a feel for what Washington County has to offer. To begin with, Washington County is the beginning of western Maryland. It is bounded on the east by South Mountain. The Appalachian Trail is very close to the border between Frederick and Washington Counties. On the south, Washington County is bounded by the Potomac River; on the north by the Mason-Dixon Line; and on the west, six miles west of Hancock, Sideling Hill. Hagerstown is the county seat and is known as the Hub City because it is the

commercial center for the Cumberland Valley. Interstates 70 and 81 intersect near Hagerstown. Before the interstates, routes 11 and 40 crossed in Hagerstown, and many railroads still run through the town.

When I was growing up, Hagerstown was the second largest city in Maryland with 35,000 to 40,000 people. Hagerstown is still about this size, and has changed little in my eyes.

The quickest way to Washington County is via Interstate 70. Take the route 40 exit to go to Hagerstown, a route that is filled with motels and restaurants as you approach the town. The exit before the route 40 exit is the route 66 exit, which takes you to the Barr farm Christmas light display.

A more interesting way of getting to Washington County is to take route 15 north at Frederick, MD and turn left on route 77 past Cunningham Falls. This is a nice, peaceful country road. The falls turn into a trickle in the summer. Route 77 intersects route 64 when you're out of the mountains. Take another left to go west on 64 to Hagerstown. If you went beyond route 77 on 15, you could take routes 550 and 491 west over the mountains and past Fort Ritchie and the underground Pentagon and Camp David. Trout streams run along the side of the road.

In Hagerstown, you will see many brick and limestone buildings. The oldest is the Hager house; built by Jonathan Hager in 1739. It is located next to the city park and the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. They are located in the southern part of the town where Prospect, Key, Memorial and Virginia Streets meet. The museum is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10-5, and Sunday 1-6. There is a photo contest at the beginning of January with a display in February (I think). Concerts are held frequently on Sunday afternoons. Ducks, geese, and swans swim in the lake in front of the Museum.

If you take Memorial Blvd. from the park you will pass the home of the Hagerstown Suns (minor league baseball) at 274 E. Memorial Blvd. (301-791-6266). The heart of Hagerstown is the city square at the intersection of Washington (E/W) and Potomac (N/S) Streets. The Maryland Theatre (301-790-2000) at 21 S. Potomac is the home of the Maryland Symphony and also has "big name" entertainment. Just down the street at 58 S. Potomac is a good German **restaurant - Schmankerl Stube** (301-797-3354). Two blocks north of the square on Potomac Street is the YMCA. Behind the Y at 11 W. Church is the City Market. It is open on Saturdays between 5 and 11 am. Produce, meats, baked goods, and flowers are sold and it is worth a look if you're there in time.

South of Hagerstown on alternate route 40 is **Funkstown**, antique store capital of Washington County. Further south is **Sharpsburg** where the **Antietam National Battlefield** (turning point of the Civil War) is located. (Exit 49 off 1-70, alternate route 40 to route 34 south.) On July 4th every year the public is invited to picnic on the battlefield grounds enjoy the Maryland Symphony in the early evening and later the fireworks. The "1812 Overture" is played using real cannons! Nearby on MD route 63

in Downsville is Ziem's vineyards. Bob and Ruth Ziem are friends of mine. We had a field trip there two years ago. I'm sure they wouldn't mind you taking pictures. They hold wine tastings Thursday - Sunday, 1-6 pm (301-223-8352).

If you continue west on 63 and then left on 68 you will come to Williamsport. Williamsport was the first targeted site of the US Capitol. Shallow water and rapids in the Potomac below Williamsport eliminated it from consideration. The C & O Canal runs parallel to the river. It is generally flat hiking or biking, much easier than hiking along the Appalachian Trail. In the southeastern portion of the county on old route 40 is the city of Boonsboro. This is where the first monument to George Washington was erected along the Appalachian Trail. It's still there today. Washington County still has a **large amount of farm land and apple orchards**, especially west of Hagerstown in the Clearspring and Hancock areas. Fort Frederick, near Big Pool on route 56 is the only remaining original stone French and Indian War fort in America. It was built in 1756. Hancock is where Maryland is narrowest. Sideling Hill road cut is six miles west of Hancock. This is where US route 48 was cut through the mountains-a geological adventure.

For car racing, there's the **Mason Dixon Dragway** on ALT 40, south of Hagers -town. The Hagerstown Speedway is on route 40 west of Hagerstown. Halfway between Hagerstown and Williamsport is Halfway, MD. Off 1-81 at Halfway is the Valley Mall which is the largest shopping center in the county.

My favorite Hagerstown places to eat are the **Subway Restaurant** for crabs (just like Baltimore) and **Nick's Airport Inn** for fancy dining (try the steamed mussels). The Subway is on or near Burhan's Blvd. in the west part of Hagers -town and Nick's Airport Inn is north of Hagerstown, at the airport on route 11. Enjoy!

The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, March, 1993

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is a popular recreation spot in the Washington area. It runs parallel to the Potomac River from Georgetown to Cumberland, Maryland, a distance of nearly 185 miles. The canal was named a National Historical Park in 1971. The 74 lift locks raise the water from nearly sea level to 605 feet at the western terminus. From Georgetown to Cumberland, on the Allegheny Plateau, the canal winds through the Piedmont, past the dramatic Great Falls of the Potomac, and then through the ridge and valley section of the Appalachian Mountains. Its rich floodplain forests are gifts of the river's frequent floods.

The canal begins in Georgetown, a community which predates creation of the Nation's Capital. It was a busy tidal port for the East Coast and European trades. The canal's tidelock lies at the mouth of Rock Creek, near the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. There is a visitor center in the Foundry Mall between 30th and Thomas Jefferson Streets from which you can catch a ride during the warmer months on a reconstructed canal boat pulled by mules walking along the tow path beside the

water. Georgetown itself has a quaint atmosphere, but the buildings along the canal have an even older appearance. There are opportunities in this area to photograph interesting architecture, especially details, as well as the canal boats themselves with their costumed guides.

A short walk west along the canal brings you to the northern end of Key Bridge where you will find interesting views of the bridge itself as well as a vista of the Rosslyn skyline. The best spot is probably from the boat house located just east of the bridge. From the bridge itself there are excellent views of the sun rising over the Washington Monument, the Kennedy Center, and the Watergate Hotel. From the other side of the bridge you can photograph the sun as it sets behind the heavily wooded hills along the Virginia side of the Potomac. I prefer the eastern view during the 30 minutes before sunrise on the quiet of a Sunday morning. There is very little traffic on the bridge at that time. This reduces vibrations that can spoil pictures made with long exposures.

Key Bridge is also a wonderful location for photographing the Georgetown crew team at sunrise and various high school crew teams during the late afternoon. If you don't mind doing a little walking, some additional photo opportunities await you along the Virginia shore. Walk to Rosslyn on the east side of the bridge and take the walkway down to the edge of the George Washington Memorial Pkwy. Just east of the bridge you can photograph the campus of Georgetown University framed by the arches of Key Bridge. The view is especially interesting in the warm light of sunrise or sunset.

A little further east you can visit Theodore Roosevelt Island from the parking lot at the edge of the parkway. Hike counter clockwise a short distance to the north west corner of the island. From this point you get good views of the bridge, the university, and especially the crew teams. If you hike clockwise to the north eastern corner of the island you will find a nice view of the Kennedy Center and other familiar waterfront landmarks. The island itself is of interest to nature lovers for its birds, animals, and wildflowers typical of the Potomac floodplains.

Although I have never seen the views from Roosevelt Island at night, I am told that they are photogenic. I know of one group that was able to arrange a night field trip to photograph the Washington skyline from the island. Off hour parking permits required for Roosevelt Island. To get one call Bart Truesdale at (703) 285-2598 or write him at the George Washington Memorial Parkway Head -quarters, c/o Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia 22101. For filming permits from the island itself, call Rick Merriman (202) 485-9660 at the Public Affairs Office of the National Park Service. Mary Mallon at (703) 285-2915 is also very helpful.

Cross Key Bridge to the north side of the Potomac River and turn left onto Canal Road. Between here and the Beltway you will find several working locks and associated lock houses. Spend some time photographing the machinery you find here as well as more general views. Don't forget to deviate from the canal at Fletcher's Boathouse and walk down to the river bank. The canal offers some landscape opportunities and there are plenty of animals, birds, and wildflowers along the way.

Hikers, bicyclists, joggers, fishermen, canoeists, and others provide plenty of opportunities to photograph people. The canal is beautiful during a snowy winter too. When the water freezes the canal is home to countless hockey players. The further west you go the less populated the areas beside the canal become.

The canal takes you past **Glen Echo Park**, site of an old amusement park which has since been torn down. However, located at Mac Arthur Boulevard and Goldsboro Rd, the park does still have an old carousel which still operates during the summer. At Glen Echo you can tour the art gallery, visit ceramics, fine arts, photographic, textile and woodworking studios and shops. The historic museum has displays on canal and Glen Echo history.

Near Glen Echo Park is the **Clara Barton National Historic Site** just off MacArthur Boulevard at 5801 Oxford Road. Clara Barton was founder of the Red Cross. You can visit her home, a unique 38-room Victorian house. The house was headquarters for the Red Cross from 1897 until 1904. The house was built from lumber used in the Red Cross Hotel erected in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, after the great flood of 1889. The architectural style of the interior of the present building follows the style of that hotel, and its living room has the appearance of the main saloon of a Mississippi River steamboat. Tours are available.

The road extends a short distance beyond the Beltway. Follow the road to **Carderock**. Here there is a picnic area and excellent scenic views of the Potomac Valley from the rocky cliffs. The nimble-footed can enjoy rock climbing and the climbers are always fun to photograph. One good walk is up river one-half mile to the point where the river channel approaches the canal, then back to the starting point. This is a very rewarding walk in the spring when the bottom lands are covered with wildflowers in many colors.

The next stop of interest is **Great Falls and Old Angler's Inn**. Take Canal Road and the George Washington Parkway past the Beltway until you come to a T-intersection.

Turn left and go about a mile to Old Angler's Inn. Park in the lot across the road, a task which is much easier early in the morning. Walk west to a small bridge and cross the canal. Continue west along the towpath. Look for a small sign on the left indicating the entrance to the Billy Goat Trail. The entrance is located perhaps 100 feet before the canal widens. This is an area where canal boats could pass or turn around. There are always wild Canada geese here along with plenty of ducks. The Billy Goat Trail, marked by blue-painted tree blazes, runs three miles across Bear Island which is no longer surrounded by water. The trail begins in a rocky area along the north bank of the Potomac River. Walk west. Watch for wildflowers. This is one of the very best wildflower areas along the Potomac flood plain. Flowers are plentiful and rich in variety. The second half of April is my favorite time to visit. The Virginia bluebells are at peak. If you continue west along the Billy Goat Trail you will find yourself high atop the rocky 200-foot high cliffs of Mather Gorge, an excellent area for scenic photography. At the end of the trail is the Great Falls area. The falls drop more than 50 feet into Mather Gorge. Bear Island has many huge potholes cut in solid rock.

These "nature's bathtubs" were carved out millions of years ago when the falls, much higher than today, came tumbling down, laden with rocky debris, and gouged out these huge smooth holes in the bedrock. There are native stands of prickly pear cactus on Bear Island as well as a wide array of spring flowers and rich bird and animal life.

The best view of the falls is from the Virginia side of the river. Nevertheless, there is plenty to photograph here, including rock climbers. The footbridge to the edge of the falls, wiped out in 1972 by Hurricane Agnes has just been opened again by the National Park Service. Hikers are not allowed off the trail.

The falls attracted tourists from the canal's early days. Great Falls Tavern was first built as a lockhouse and is now a museum devoted to the history of the canal. There is a picnic area beside the canal. One can inspect and photograph the lock machinery. There are nature exhibits and an open snack bar during the summer months. Ask at the Tavern for directions to the site of an abandoned gold mine. There is much more to say about the C & O Canal. This column will be continued next month.

The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal (cont.) - By Dave Carter & Bill Kreykenbohm Fotofax, April 1993

Construction of the C&O Canal began in 1828 creating a waterway that operated from 1850 to 1924. Last month this column described the photo opportunities from the beginning of the canal in Georgetown to the area around Great Falls. This month we discuss the rest of the canal extending to Cumberland, Maryland.

From the Beltway go five miles west on River Road to Swain's Lock Road. Turn left and go to the end of the road to Swain's Lock (lock 21). This area offers picnic and camping facilities. You can explore and photograph the rugged, rural beauty of the canal and the river. This is also a popular birding area.

Pennyfield Lock is three miles above Swain's Lock. Access is by Pennyfield Lock Road, left off River Road. A state game refuge, where one can observe waterfowl as well songbirds, is located between the canal and the Potomac River, beginning a half mile above the lock on the far side of Muddy Branch.

The canal passes Seneca, Maryland, where the river is broad and quiet because the waters are impounded by a long dam downstream. A special attraction is **the old stone aqueduct carrying the canal over Seneca Creek**. There is also a wildlife preserve downstream.

A half-mile upstream are the **ruins of the Seneca sandstone quarry** which supplied cut stone for many of Washington's public buildings. The extensive marsh alongside the canal once served as a turn-around basin for canal boats. Today it is an important bird study area.

Another favorite spot along the canal is **White's Ferry** located four miles North of Leesburg, Virginia, off Route 15 on Route 655. The last ferry boat still in operation on the Potomac is named for a famous Confederate General, Jubal Early, who crossed the river near the ferry site when he made his attack on Washington in 1864. To get to White's Ferry from Maryland take 1-270 north west and turn left on Route 28. Go 12 miles to Dawsonville and make a left. Drive 11 miles to the Potomac River.

Further west is **Monocacy Aqueduct**. Built between 1829 and 1833, the aqueduct is the longest one carrying the C&O Canal over rivers and creeks on its 180-mile course. Its 7 -span, 560-foot stone structure was made of white quartzite, quarried at Sugarloaf Mountain. The area, most of which belongs to the Federal Government, is undeveloped, and the atmosphere is very much as it was in the days when mule-drawn barges moved up and down the canal. Take 1-270 toward Frederick and then go west on Route 28 for 20 miles to Dickerson. Turn left on Aqueduct Rd.

To get to **Wood's Lock**, take River Road west from the Beltway to Poolesville. From there go left on Route 107 through Martinsburg and two miles to the right to Cherrington. This is an area which attracts both fisherman and geologists. There is year-round fishing here because it is a warm-water area just below an electric generating plant. There is a marble quarry one and one-half miles below Wood's lock. Stone from this outcropping was used for the beautiful columns of Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

The canal continues northwest through Brunswick, Maryland, an interesting old railroad town not far from Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. The Harper's Ferry area was described in an earlier issue of Fotofax. The canal and the Potomac River pass beneath **Maryland Heights**, a high stone cliff rising above the river. A three-mile hike leads to the stone fort ruins above the town. To reach this blue-blazed trail, drive east on Route 340 from Harper's Ferry to the far side of the Potomac River Bridge, turn onto the old road that parallels the railroad and canal.

About 200 yards beyond Sandy Hook you will see the Maryland Heights parking area on the right. The 3-1/2 hour walking trip begins at the stone steps at the parking area and ascends steeply to the overlook cliff. From the almost bare ridge one can get a spectacular view up the Shenandoah and the Potomac valleys. The descending trail leads to the canal, about a half mile above the railroad bridge to Harpers Ferry.

There are some excellent wildflower areas nearby. Take 1-270 to Frederick. Then travel west on 1-70 for only one mile to Route 340 which you should take west toward Charlestown and Harper's Ferry. Stay on Route 340 for 16 miles and turn left on Keep Trykst Road just before the bridge over the Potomac River. Make a right turn on Sandy Hook-Harpers Ferry Road and continue through the town of Sandy Hook, past the old railroad bridge, and along Harper's Ferry Road for almost seven miles, Turn left on Limekiln Road and make an immediate left on **Mountain Lock Road**. At the end of the road is a very small parking area. Turn left and hike along the canal about one mile. On the opposite side of the canal is a limestone cliff. At the end of the cliff it

becomes a hill. Climb the hill and look for shooting star and other interesting wildflowers at the end of April. Watch for hidden barbed wire when you climb the hill. It is easy to damage the environment here, so be careful not to tear up the hillside.

Another fine wildflower area is located at **Snyder's Landing**. From Mountain Lock continue on Harpers Ferry Road to the town of Sharpsburg. Turn left on Main Street, right on North Mechanic Street, and left on Snyder's Landing Road. It is about 1.5 miles to the parking area. Hike left on the C&O Canal to the best wildflower areas. A number of interesting species grow here including erect (red) trillium.

Upstream from Snyder's Landing is **Taylor's Landing**. To get there take route 65 south of Hagerstown and turn onto Taylor's Landing Road. Drive to the end. Taylor's Landing has a public boat ramp. In the summer, you'll see skiers being pulled by speedboats. A little further upstream is Dam #4 where many local fishermen catch smallmouth bass. This area is also loaded with deer who are attracted to the nearby farm land and are safe in the National Park. Dam #5 near Clear Spring is another popular fishing spot.

You can find many areas to visit as the canal continues west. **Williamsport**, Maryland, west of Hagerstown on 1-81, is an old canal town laid out in 1786 by General O. H. Williams, for whom it is named. The town supports a brick kiln and limestone quarry. West of town is the old **Conococheague Creek Bridge**. The canal crosses the creek by means of a long stone aqueduct. Take Falling Waters Road south along the canal and explore several of the boat landing areas along the river. During the warmer months the Potomac River is filled with water skiers and water jets skiers close enough to the shore to make good pictures possible.

Further west is the town of **Hancock**, Maryland, an area which I have not explored systematically. Here the Potomac River and canal cut through the mountains which separate Hancock from Cumberland. I have seen some interesting pictures taken from Prospect Peak. Last time I was in Hancock I tried to find the peak but got lost. The view is worth the search. The local residents were unable to help me find the overlook. Have any of you ever been there?

In the great rush to develop a trade route to the west the single greatest impediment for the builders of the canal was the tunnel they had to build through the mountains just east of Paw Paw, West Virginia. The tunnel is approximately a mile long and it had to be just as wide as the rest of the canal and towpath to carry the barges. Construction took several years and many lives were lost building this tunnel. When you go hiking through the tunnel, be sure to bring a flashlight.

In Maryland, across the Potomac River from Paw Paw, the canal goes through Green Ridge State Forest. This is a large wild park where you should find many photo opportunities.

At the western end of the canal is the town of Cumberland, Maryland. Here you can see a 95-foot replica of an old canal boat. While you are here it is worth exploring the town, especially the neighborhood streets lined with Victorian homes.

Maps and additional information are available at the visitor centers in Cumberland, Hancock, and Potomac, or contact the Park Superintendent, PO Box 4, Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782. The superintendent's telephone number is (301) 739-4200.

Flower Gardens - by Gretchen Kolsrud

Fotofax, May, 1993

Spring! Who can resist spring flowers pushing up through moist earth to flaunt their colors, sometimes subtle and delicate, other times brilliant - demanding to be noticed?

My remedy for spring fever is trying to capture the fleeting beauty of flowers on film. For this, I visit both local natural places like Scotts Run Nature Preserve and Turkey Run, more distant natural spots such as the G. R. Thompson area near Front Royal, and locations with cultivated flowers. This article describes three of my favorite cultivated locales: **Brookside Gardens, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, and the National Arboretum.**

Brookside Gardens: This beautiful 50 acre garden is part of the much larger (about 500 acres) Wheaton Regional Park. Brookside offers a three stage series of formal gardens that ascend to a gazebo, a rose garden with myriad varieties including All-America selections, a fragrance garden, a collection of trees and shrubs, two pond complexes and at least two specialized gardens, plus, a conservatory. The two pond complexes are quite different from each other. One features a Japanese tea house on an island reached by small bridges. The other is an aquatic garden composed of two ponds, one of which has an island, and on some years the other features a nice collection of lotuses. Canada geese are generally found in or near all the ponds.

The specialized gardens include an experimental garden where new and unusual flowers are grown and imaginative garden design ideas are tested and a butterfly garden that is planted with flowers that attract butterflies - yellow swallowtails, skippers and other butterflies are often plentiful here.

Flowers bloom throughout the year in the lovely conservatory, which features a stream and footbridge. It is a good place to see tropical palms and ferns as well as seasonal displays of familiar flowers such as lilies, chrysanthemums, and cyclamen.

My reasons to visit: I go to Brookside to photograph the extensive tulip and azalea collections in the spring and the roses in summer. The tulips lend themselves to one of my favorite photo techniques for strong single subjects. Isolate a single tulip and then do a double exposure of it. Use maximum depth of field in the first exposure. In the second, use minimum depth of field and focus out so that the unfocused second image is larger than the first. The result will be a sharp picture within an out of focus

"halo." You can vary the relative weight of the sharp focused image and the halo by varying the relative amount by which each is underexposed.

Between April and June, I visit Brookside for its azaleas and rhododendrons; there are more than 600 varieties to admire and photograph. Roses bloom all summer with peaks in June and early fall. 40 varieties and more than 600 plants illustrate the diversity of hybrid tea, floribunda, and grandiflora roses that grow in the Washington area. Finally, there's always something to photograph at the lovely, well-tended conservatory, but tripods are not always welcome here (see below).

Getting there .. and tripods: Take the Beltway to Georgia Avenue (MD route 97) and follow it north to Wheaton. After about 3 1/4 miles and about a dozen stoplights is Randolph Road. Turn right and continue to the second light, which is Glenallen Avenue. Turn right again and proceed a half mile to the gates at the entrance to the gardens on the right. Brookside is open 9 to 5 daily except Christmas Day. **Tripods are permitted** throughout the gardens. In the conservatory whether you can use a tripod seems to be determined by the number of visitors and the **judgment of the staff** as to whether your tripod is likely to hinder others. Sometimes it's OK. Sometimes you'll have to handhold.

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens: The 12 acres of ponds at Kenilworth comprise the only national park devoted entirely to water plants. The origins of this park lie with a U. S. Treasury Department clerk, Walter Shaw, who came to Washington in 1880 and bought land that included what is now the park from his father-in-law. Shaw was fond of water lilies and began planting them on his land as a hobby. The hobby evolved into a business as he, and later his daughter, added increasingly exotic varieties from around the world. In 1938, the gardens became part of the National Capital Parks system. Today it displays a collection of water lilies and lotuses that may be unsurpassed worldwide with over 100,000 plants and many varieties.

Kenilworth is not an anecdote to springtime blahs. The lotuses and water lilies are summer bloomers. The hardy water lilies peak in June and July to be followed by the tropical water lilies in July and August. Unlike the water lilies, which bloom on or only a few inches above the surface, the lotuses rise up 3 to 5 feet above the water.

Kenilworth has many features, both plant and animal, beyond its main attraction of water lilies and lotuses. In the plant kingdom, these include cattails, buttonbush and extensive rose mallow shrubs along the paths between the ponds. Water hyacinth and cardinal flower can be seen in ponds near the visitor center.

Kenilworth has lots of animal wildlife. A variety of species of turtles, frogs and toads make the park their home, as have several green heron. Other animal species, such as muskrats, raccoons, opossums, and the gray squirrel are found there. Yellow swallowtails and other butterflies are common.

My reasons to visit: There are three large concrete rectangular ponds behind the visitors center. One is devoted to East Indian lotus plants descended from seeds discovered in a dry lake bed in Manchuria and estimated to be between 350 and 575 years old. These are thought to be the oldest viable seeds ever found. The other two ponds contain water lilies and are a favorite location of mine. Surrounded by lawn and set flush with the ground, these pools permit you to get closer to the lilies in a higher degree of comfort than is generally possible at the larger ponds. For truly other worldly effects with the white, yellow, pink, or blue lilies in these ponds, try SO-279 film.

Getting there .. and tripods: Kenilworth is located just inside the eastern edge of the Beltway. Take the Eastern Avenue exit. If you have exited from the outer loop proceed up the ramp and immediately turn left to U-turn over the Beltway. Proceed two blocks and turn right on Douglas Street, which soon dead ends at Anacostia Avenue. Turn right. The entrance to the park is about 200 feet further on. The park is open from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Occasionally the park personnel who open the gates are late; just be patient. Tripods are permitted throughout. Although park rangers maintain the park and conduct walks, you should be aware that this is not the best section of the city.

National Arboretum: Established by an act of Congress in 1927, the 444 acre National Arboretum is such a beautiful and diverse place that it is difficult to know where to begin and impossible to do justice in describing it. Like the Smithsonian, this is a place of many visits.

Not surprisingly, given its name, the National Arboretum's prime purpose is research on trees and shrubs, many of which are flowering. There are groupings of cherries, crabapples, crepe myrtles, dogwoods, hollies, magnolias, and maples as well as conifers and pines and some special collections. The Arboretum contains the largest planting of azaleas in the country and a large hillside area attracts a stream of visitors in spring to admire the white, pink, and red blossoms. Besides trees and shrubs, there are a number of areas set aside for large groupings of specific flowers, such as narcissus and daffodils, peonies, iris, daylilies, and roses.

Reasons to visit: My reasons to visit are many and not limited to photography. Camera favorites for me are the daffodils and flowering magnolias in April and the azaleas, rhododendrons and dogwoods in May. No year would be complete without yet another attempt to capture Molten Magma and other members of the daylily collection on film in late May/early June. And I hope someday to be there with my camera when gray and leaden skies open and a shaft of sunlight illuminates the National Capitol Columns that march in solitary and rather bizarre fashion across a pristine ridge in the middle of the park. (I came close once. Just couldn't get my camera set up before that shaft of light had come and gone.)

The National Arboretum is one of my favorite places to take visitors from out of town. Then, I leave my camera behind (or at least limit myself to snapshots). Stopping at the Administration Building to get a map and pick up some of the interesting descriptive brochures, pause outside to admire the colorful **Nishiki Koi fish** in the surrounding

ponds. Special places that out-of-towners enjoy are the fragrant and informative **National Herb Garden**, the **Gotelli Dwarf Conifer Collection**, and the **National Bonsai and Penjing Collection**. The bonsai and penjing are dwarf trees (most are 1 to 2 feet high), housed in their own pavilion near the Administration Building. The collection began when Japan donated 53 bonsai and 6 viewing stones (stones of interesting shape and color that lend themselves to contemplation) to the American people in 1976 to commemorate our bicentennial. The oldest of these priceless trees is a white pine 350 years of age. Another member of the collection is a 180 year old Japanese red pine from the Imperial Household - the first of the Imperial collection to leave Japan. Additions have been made to the collection and it numbered more than 250 exquisite little trees when I visited last year.

Getting there .. and tripods: Take the Benning Road exit from the eastern edge of the Beltway and proceed west to Bladensburg Road. Turn right and proceed to R Street. Turn right and go straight ahead to the gates of the Arboretum in about 300 yards. The hours are 8 to 5 Monday through Friday and 10 to 5 on Saturday and Sunday. Closed Christmas Day. I know of no limits on tripods. but I have not tried to use one inside the bonsai pavilion.

Piscataway Park - by Rich Blanquet

Fotofax, Summer, 1993

Located on the west bank of the Potomac River, opposite Mount Vernon, Piscataway Park serves to enhance public awareness with regard to a wide variety of environmental issues. It also offers a diversity of outstanding and unique photographic opportunities. The park, a creation of the Accokeek Foundation, is one of the oldest land trusts in Maryland. Working with the Nat'l Park Service, it seeks to preserve the natural, cultural and historic riches of the Potomac River area.

The park is within easy driving distance. Take the Beltway (1-95) to exit 3A (in Maryland) south onto Indian Head Highway (route 210) and go about 10 miles to route 373. Turn right and follow the signs to the National Colonial Farm entrance at the end of Bryan Point Road (about 4 miles). Begin your trip through the park from the back of a small gift shop. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$0.50 for children between the ages of 3 and 12. Children under 3 are admitted free. Fees will not exceed \$5.00 per family. The trip will take you through five distinct areas which can be reached by a leisurely walk along the indicated trails. This is an excellent park for a family outing so bring them along.

We began our excursion by turning left upon leaving the gift shop and headed toward the National Colonial Farm. This area is a recreation of a small Maryland tobacco farm at the eve of the American Revolution. Included is a colonial farmhouse, tobacco barn, out kitchen, and smoke house. Garden and herb plots are beautifully planted and arranged. (They have been featured in popular magazines such as "Southern Living").

The staff, dressed in 18th century attire, offers demonstrations and informal presentations on various aspects of farm living. Historic breeds of poultry and livestock roam the site much as they did over 200 years ago. Subject matter for photography abounds! A short trail from the back of the out kitchen leads to a small pier on the river's edge. From here one gets a magnificent view of Mount Vernon directly across the river. There are panoramic views in both directions. Be sure to bring wide angle and telephoto lenses.

From the farm, one can take the Persimmon Trail past a large wildfowl pond (another good photo area) to the Robert Straus Ecosystem Farm. Here you will see an example of highly productive agriculture and its relationship to the adjacent wetlands and river.

On two sides of this area are large stands of American chestnut trees, a unique aspect of the park. The chestnut was once a dominant species of eastern hard wood forests until they were almost obliterated by a blight early in this century.

Scientists have been working feverishly to develop resistant strains before all these trees are lost. Today these magnificent trees are still not out of the woods (excuse the pun) and their fate is uncertain. The stands of living chestnuts in Piscataway Park represent one of the ongoing efforts to preserve this species. With luck we will not be among the last photographers to capture them on film.

The Paw Paw Trail leads from the chestnut stands to the Native Tree Arboretum. Here, over 200 trees and shrubs native to southern Maryland are identified. Many were utilized by the American Indians and colonists for food, lodging and medicinal purposes. This three-acre area overlooks the wildlife pond and the Potomac River.

Another unique aspect of this park is the Bluebird Trail which leads visitors past nearly 50 bluebird houses which are actively used during the breeding season. Like the chestnut tree, bluebirds were once as common as robins in southern Maryland, but their numbers have been reduced by 90% over the last 100 years. This area offers unique opportunities to photograph these popular birds. A telephoto lens is a must to get good close up shots.

Two other trails take visitors through additional habitats. The Blackberry rail wanders through natural wooded areas. The Pumpkin Ash Trail from the gift shop runs along the Potomac River and crosses a boardwalk through a fresh water tidal swamp. With careful observation and a little luck this park provides almost limitless photographic subjects, all within a short distance from the beltway.

New York City - by Ed Funk

Fotofax, October 1993

New York City ... those words summon many different images in the minds of visitors and residents alike. Born and raised in New York City I returned last fall as a

Copyright 2008. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced or copied in any manner whatsoever. 106

photographic tourist and rekindled my love of the city. Images, photographic and otherwise are everywhere. New York City, once the Capital of our country, is the capital of finance, business, arts, fashion, design, architecture, media and much more. It would take a lifetime to photograph the city and it's people. In this On Location I will try to condense the information I gathered prior to our October 1992 field trip.

October and May are the best months to visit and photograph New York City. Temperatures are moderate and the atmosphere is clearest. The city consists of five boroughs, Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Kings (Brooklyn), and Richmond (Staten Island). This column will cover Manhattan and Brooklyn Heights which affords an excellent view of downtown and the Brooklyn Bridge.

Getting There: AMTRAK operates frequent train service to and from mid-town New York. Regular service operates hourly, usually at thirty-five past the hour (7:35, 8:35, 9:35 etc.) and the trip takes about 3 hours and 25 minutes. Round trip excursion fares are \$89 with some restrictions (for example, not valid Friday, Noon to 7pm).

Call AMTRAK at 1-800-USA-RAIL for specific schedule and fare information or check with your travel agent. The high speed Metroliner trip takes 2 hours and 55 minutes, and requires reservations. Fares are similar to airfares.

(Ed. Note: Recently, several bus lines have started multiple daily trips for \$20 - \$25 each way. Departures are from downtown DC and several suburbs. Check the internet.)

Driving takes from 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 hours. The New Jersey Turnpike provides entrances to the city from the south via the Holland Tunnel (downtown), the Lincoln Tunnel (midtown) and the George Washington Bridge (uptown). Driving a car in Manhattan is very difficult even for experienced, aggressive drivers.

Parking, near impossible during the week, is still difficult on weekends and garages are expensive. If you want to drive, consider staying in northern New Jersey near an AMTRAK or NJ Transit train station to travel in and out of the city.

Getting Around: Manhattan is approximately 13 miles long and two miles wide at the widest spot. Bus and subway transportation is efficient and economical. However, I recommend planning your itinerary carefully and using taxis to get from area to area. Taxis can take up to four passengers and a 7 to 15 minute trip between areas will cost from \$5 to \$8, including a 15% tip (20% for help with baggage).

Lodging: Since many hotel rooms are unoccupied on weekends it is frequently possible to negotiate a discounted rate. Weekend packages are heavily advertised and available online. If you must guarantee the reservation try to negotiate an alternative weekend in case of "bad photographic weather". Maps, hotel, restaurant, shopping, and sightseeing guides are available from the New York City Convention and Visitors Bureau. 2 Columbus Circle, New York, N.Y. 10019-1823, (212) 484-1222.

Photographing Manhattan: My research for the last photo trip led to the development of this photo opportunity list grouped by area within the city. The list is comprehensive but it is not complete. I suggest you start with a street map of Manhattan and mark each of the subjects you wish to see/photograph and highlight your highest priorities. I estimate 6 to 8 days and evenings would be required to cover (not in depth) the following subjects.

The Battery & Wall Street Area (Financial District): Lower Manhattan's Battery Park was the site of a Dutch settler's fort in 1624. The park affords excellent views of **New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, and Ellis Island**. You will also find the **Castle Clinton National Monument**, a fort built in 1811, which served as the U.S. Army headquarters during the War of 1812. The monument houses the ticket office for the **Liberty and Ellis Island ferry** which departs from this area. Colorful vendors and street entertainers frequent this area. Other subjects include an old firehouse with two fireboats; memorials to World War II veterans and to shipwrecked people; and the **US Customs House**. The **Staten Island Ferry Terminal** is at the foot of the park.

Just to the north of this area a **riverside promenade** along the Hudson River leads to a **marina** next to the World Financial Center. Several luxurious yachts can usually be found here. The **World Financial Center** consists of four towers with offices for 30,000 people. The **Winter Garden**, a 120-foot vaulted glass and steel structure with marble tile provides free music, dance, and theater productions for area workers. Balconies and canopied gazebos, international restaurants and specialty shops are also featured. To the west of Battery Park you will find **Wall Street, the NY Stock Exchange, and Federal Hall National Memorial**, site of the first U.S. Capitol. Washington was inaugurated here in 1789. **Trinity Church** completed in 1697 and the tallest building in New York at that time stands at the west end of Wall Street. Alexander Hamilton & Robert Fulton are buried in the **cemetery**. Just east of Wall Street along the East River, you'll find the popular **South Street Seaport Museum**, including shops, restaurants and tall ships. Fees for the museum and to board ships were \$6. Other nearby points of interest are the **Fulton Fish Market** and the **Frances Tavern**. The tavern was originally built in 1719 and has been restored.

Downtown & Brooklyn Bridge: This area runs from lower Manhattan up to about 23rd street and includes the **Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Williamsburg Bridges**. The Brooklyn Bridge and Manhattan skyline are best photographed from the Brooklyn Heights Promenade or Empire-Fulton Ferry Park on the Brooklyn side of the East River. The ethnic and artist areas make up most of the remainder of downtown Manhattan.

Greenwich Village and Soho (South of Houston) are the Bohemian communities where you will find curio shops, book stores, art shows, galleries, coffee houses, theaters and nightclubs. Washington Square at the foot of Fifth Avenue is a good place to start the exploration of these areas. Here the **Washington Arch** is a favorite subject. The streets surrounding the arch and park provide many photo opportunities.

The ethnic neighborhoods just to the east and south of SoHo include the sidewalk cafes and groceries of **Little Italy**, the **Sunday markets** on Orchard, Grand, and Essex Streets in the Jewish section, and **colorful Chinatown**. Our last group highly recommends dinner in Chinatown followed by wonderful "night photo -graphy" and a nightcap in Little Italy with an Italian pastry desert.

Mid-town & Central Park South: The giant skyscrapers of mid-town Manhattan can be difficult subjects but they are worthy of attention and also provide excellent vantage points to photograph the city. The 102 story Empire State Building observation tower is open 9:30am to midnight. Photographic delights include:

- Grand Central Station
- The Pan Am Building (probably re-named by now) Rockefeller Center
- The Statue of Prometheus and Channel Gardens
- Radio City Music Hall
- The Atlas statue
- The Chrysler Building
- The UN Buildings & Plaza
- St. Patrick's Cathedral
- The Waldorf Astoria
- St. Thomas Church
- The Museum of Modern Art and it's Sculpture Garden
- Times Square
- Theodore Roosevelt's birthplace

The buildings of **The Lincoln Center** for the Performing Arts are beautifully designed and are excellent for day or night photography. Be sure to see the **Metropolitan Opera House, Avery Fisher Hall** (NY Philharmonic), **Alice Tully Hall, the Beaumont Theater, State Theater and The Julliard School**.

Nearby at Central Park South you will find horse drawn **hansom cabs** and residential hotel buildings that line the park's southern border.

Uptown & Central Park: Central Park covers 840 acres from 59th to 110th Streets, between 5th Avenue and Central Park West (8th Avenue). Fountains, ponds, lakes and gardens provide a marvelous sanctuary. The **Strawberry Fields** garden of peace honors **John Lennon**. The park contains an excellent zoo, a carousel, the Egyptian obelisk "Cleopatra's Needle", and other statuary. Stop at the Visitor Center in the Dairy near the Zoo for more information.

One of the worlds great museums, The **Metropolitan Museum of Art** is on the park grounds at 5th Avenue and 82nd Street. The **Guggenheim Museum** at 5th Avenue and 89th street designed by Frank Lloyd Wright contains a domed circular section and spiral (corkscrew) walkways for a delightful visual effect.

Continuing north to 91 st street and 5th Avenue you will find **the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, the Smithsonian's National Museum of Design**. This collection of

decorative art is housed in the former Andrew Carnegie 1901 neo-Georgian mansion. The **International Center of Photography** at 94th street houses a 10,000 print permanent collection of fine photography and terrific changing exhibits. The **Museum of the City of New York** at 103rd street depicts the life and history of the city.

On Central Park West at 79th street you will find the **American Museum of Natural History and the Hayden Planetarium**. Near here and within the park are the **Belvedere Castle** with good views of the surrounding area and **Shakespeare Garden**. A few blocks from the northwest boundary of the park is the **Cathedral of St. John the Divine**. Begun in 1892, the worlds largest cathedral is built with Maine granite and Indiana limestone and has yet to be completed. The Episcopal cathedral is two football fields long and 17 stories high.

East of the cathedral along the Hudson River is the picturesque **Riverside Park**. **Riverside Church** at 122nd street contains a 74 bell carillon, one of the world's largest. Nearby is the **General Grant National Memorial**, the tomb of President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife.

Other subjects of interest around the city include **The Cloisters** in Fort Tryon Park north of the George Washington Bridge. This branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art is devoted to medieval art and contains parts of five French cloisters, stained glass windows, tapestries, statuary, paintings, gardens, and a Romanesque chapel.

The Statue of Liberty National Monument, and Ellis Island, both in New York Harbor, are reached via ferry from Battery Park. The statue was a gift from France commemorating the Revolutionary War alliance. An elevator takes you the first 10 stories to the viewing platform on top of the pedestal for great views of the harbor and cityscape. For the more spectacular view, walk up the circular stairway, 12 stories (168 steps) to the platform in the crown. The ferry fare is \$6 with departures every 45 minutes.

Safety: The same simple precautions that apply to any major city apply here. Move around in small groups. Avoid the subway late at night. Keep equipment and purse straps secure. An unobtrusive camera bag is best. You will find most places you visit are crowded which provides an added level of safety (the exception here is to protect against pickpockets).

Photographing New York City could provide a lifetime of fun.

Sunrises and Sunsets in Washington, DC - by Jim Sollo

Fotofax, November 1993

In my experience, the immediate Washington area is not a particularly fruitful area for sunrise and sunset photography. However, there are a few locations and circumstances which are unique, and given some help from Mother Nature, offer a chance for some special shots.

During the spring and autumn equinoxes (actually for about three days prior to and three days after), the sun rises almost due east (90 degrees on the compass) and sets almost due west (270 degrees on the compass). The spring Equinox occurs about March 21 st and the autumn Equinox occurs about September 22nd. These are unusual events and they present some rare, and potentially spectacular, photo opportunities.

From the **grassy knoll between the Iwo Jima Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon** between route 50 and Arlington National Cemetery, you can get some unusual sunrise photos of the sun coming up over the city. The Capitol, the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial line up almost directly east-west. During the Equinox period, you can frame these prominent Washington landmarks with a dramatic sun rising behind them. From this location a 400mm lens fills the frame with these three monuments.

You can move laterally across the knoll area and change the composition slightly, chasing the rising sun as it moves quickly behind the monuments. Smaller lenses, down to 100mm in focal length, can also be used to create dramatic landscapes with a sweeping perspective of the city at sunrise.

Autumn is the better time to take photographs from this location. This is because the haze and humidity are more prevalent. In late March the air is usually too cool and clear. Haze, pollution, and humidity soften the image somewhat, creating a more romantic view of the city. More important, they help eliminate, or at least reduce, the potential for lens flare.

There is another nice cliché sunrise shot to be made from this same location between mid-May and mid-August when the sun rises in it's northernmost position on the eastern horizon. During these warm summer mornings you can silhouette the soldiers on the Iwo Jima Memorial from the stairs or walkway on the west side of the memorial as the sun appears on the northeast horizon. From this location there are no tall buildings between the Memorial and the horizon so you can move around behind the monument concentrating on various compositions as the sun clears the horizon and begins its arch across the summer sky. Unfortunately, because of the number of high rise office buildings and apartments on the west side of the memorial, there are no good sunset possibilities here.

The Spring and Fall Equinox periods also offer some unusual photo opportunities from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. At these times the rising sun shines directly on the **statue of Lincoln**. You can also get some interesting shots in the opposite direction as the sun rises directly behind the Capitol and the Washington Monument complete with reflections in the reflecting pool.

An unusual sunset shot is available during the month prior to the spring Equinox (February 15th to March 21 st) and for about a month after the autumn Equinox (September 22nd to October 25th). This is the "Mormon Temple Sunset Shot." The location is a little difficult to get to for those unfamiliar with the area, so you might want to reread these directions with a map handy.

From the Capitol Beltway take the Georgia Avenue exit and go south (inside the beltway) toward Washington. Go about 3 blocks to View Avenue (route 391). Turn right. The road meanders for about 0.75 miles in a northwesterly direction back across the beltway. (There is no exit or access to the beltway at this point.) When you cross the beltway, look to your left. There is a railroad trestle which also crosses the beltway, about 100 yards to the west. About 1/3 of a mile beyond the train trestle, the 6 spires of the **Mormon Temple** loom out of the woods. (The beltway seems to run almost to the base of the Temple and then turn left as viewed from your location.)

Continue across the overpass and you will soon come to Forest Glen Road. Go left here. There will be a railroad crossing directly in front of you. Don't cross the tracks. On your left is a small, gravel parking area. Park here. Walk across the railroad tracks and then back toward the trestle which crosses the beltway. When you reach the trestle, carefully climb down on the large concrete abutment on the northwest corner of the trestle. The traffic will be zooming below you. (Now is a nice time to tell you this shot is not for the faint of heart!)

From this location, you have an almost direct western view of the Temple with its impressive spires reaching toward the sky. A 400mm lens, with the picture composed using a vertical format, just brings in the spires. During the Equinox, the sun sets behind the spires giving a very interesting, non-cliche, Washington sunset picture. The elevation rises on your right (north) and falls slightly on your left (south). Therefore, the sun is almost impossible to photograph as it tracks north in the Spring after March 21, and much easier to get in the fall (after September 22nd). For these reasons the best image must be made during the autumn season.

There are two special difficulties photographing from this vantage point. First, the traffic below on the beltway causes the entire trestle to vibrate somewhat. This can be a little disconcerting when shooting with slow speed film. Second, guess what occasionally rumbles by on the railroad tracks. You guessed it-fast freight trains. Not only is the noise deafening, but the vibrations make it impossible to shoot at any speed. (And if you are like me, standing a few feet away from a roaring locomotive will give you the willies.)

There are a couple of other sunset spots in Washington which are easier to get to. One is from the top of the stairs on the west face of the **Capitol Building**. Since permits are required to use tripods on the Capitol grounds, you should park on the east side of the building and use the southeast entrance. The guard at the entrance will direct you to the office that provides the permits. Be sure to tell the officer issuing the permit that the photos you are taking are "for personal use only." The whole process takes about 20 to 30 minutes. Please take the time to do it. Since a small explosive device was set off in the Capitol building a few years ago, the officers patrolling the grounds will politely but firmly escort you back to your car if you are using a tripod and can't show them a permit.

Once you get the permit, exit from the southeast entrance (where you came in). Walk around the south side of the building toward the west face, and as you look west you will have a marvelous view of the city. Again, around the Equinox periods (from early March to mid-April and from early September to mid-October) the sun sets near the Washington Monument, giving you a distinctly Washington sunset picture. A 200mm lens from this location allows you to make the sun fairly large in the photograph and still capture the distinctive landmarks of the city.

A nearby city sunset spot is down the long stairs on the **west side of the Capitol**, and across the street to the concrete "park" with the statue of General Grant on a horse. You are at a much lower elevation here, so the perspective is much different. But after sunset you may get some nice "afterglow" shots from here with the Washington Monument silhouetted against the sky. What really makes this location special is the circular pond on the west side of the "park." When the wind is calm, you can get some great reflections of the Washington Monument and the sky. This can be particularly moody and effective at dusk.

The only other interesting sunset shot that I am aware of is from the **west side of Key Bridge**, the bridge across the Potomac River separating Rosslyn, Virginia, from Georgetown. Because the river angles slightly northwest, a photograph from this vantage point is probably most effective right after the spring Equinox and just prior to the autumn Equinox. You can shoot down the river and, particularly in late summer, with the "canyon" of the Potomac covered with foliage, you can get an image very uncharacteristic of Washington. From the other side of the bridge there is an eastern view of the city that is particularly appropriate for winter sunrises. From this location you can shoot down the river as the sun rises and get the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument in the picture. This is also an ideal location to capture images of the crew teams during their early morning practice sessions.

The last location that I am aware of near the city is at **Belle Haven Park** south of the beltway adjacent to the George Washington Parkway. Driving south on the Parkway, take a left into the park toward the marina. Then take an immediate left to a parking area for the picnic grounds. Park here. Walk across the picnic area and in front of you is the Potomac River. This location makes an excellent summer sunrise shot and can also be very nice in the winter. As you walk along the edge of the river, you will notice

a clump of bare trees sticking out of the river. These make an excellent foreground. You can shoot the rising sun as it clears the Maryland hills on the other side of the river. The "tree island" is often covered with cormorants, geese, and ducks that become quite active at daybreak so slow shutter speeds here can be a problem. Personally, I like to shoot sunrises under somewhat hazy conditions. You are most likely to find haze when there has been a sudden overnight change in air temperature and when there is little wind. Such conditions can produce a beautiful fog over the river because of the difference between the air and water temperatures. This is especially likely to happen in March and April. The fog may obscure the sun for 30 minutes or more, but the chance of getting gorgeous moody pictures makes it worth getting out of bed early. Happy shooting!

New York City at Night - by Gary Silverstein

Fotofax, November 1993

It would take a dozen Fototax articles to list all of the places in New York City to photograph at night. Fortunately, Ed Funk's excellent overview of photographing New York City (Fotofax, October 1993) provides a comprehensive overview of what to see and photograph in Manhattan. It also describes how to get to New York City, navigate Manhattan, and find overnight lodging. So I am going to limit myself to a few places that are easy to get to and relatively safe to visit. Although these destinations are fine for daytime photography, I include them here because they offer stunning views of Manhattan at night.

Completed in 1931, the **Empire State Building** remains one of the most famous structures in the world. Located in mid-town Manhattan, the building has observation levels on the 86th (1,050 feet) and 102nd (1,250 feet) floors. My preference is the outdoor observation deck on the 86th floor, since it has both a glass-enclosed viewing area and spacious outdoor promenades (the 102nd floor is enclosed in glass). Most importantly, the fence that surrounds the outdoor promenade was designed with photographers in mind. It is equipped with holes large enough for regular size lenses. In fact, with a bit of positioning, it is possible to tilt your lens so that it is looking almost straight down. Thus, unlike many observation decks, you do not have to worry about reflected light in windows when shooting at night. You do, however, have to cope with strong gusts of wind year round and bitterly cold temperatures in winter.

The view from atop the Empire State Building is exquisite. To the north is Rockefeller Center (home to the RCA - make that the GE - Building), St. Patrick's Cathedral, George Washington Bridge, and Central Park. To the east is the United Nations Building, the art deco neon decorations atop the Chrysler Building, and the Pan Am - make that the Met Life - Building. And to the South is the Statue of Liberty (barely visible), the skyscrapers of Wall Street, the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges. You will want a wide angle lens to capture the sweeping panorama beneath you. A medium telephoto lens will also be helpful to isolate buildings or landmarks. The Empire State Building is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to midnight (tickets are sold until 11:25 p.m.). Two subway stops - 33rd Street and 34th Street Herald Square - are located near the building. Admission is \$3.50; over 62 and ages 5-11, \$1.75.

A word about taking night photos from inside any other building. Because indoor observation decks are generally well illuminated, light from behind the camera can reflect onto the window in front of the lens. The resulting glare has ruined many a photo. You can crouch down low and use an umbrella or jacket to shield extraneous light from behind the camera. Also, beware of the glare that can ruin your photos when fellow tourists try to illuminate the entire New York skyline with a single flash.

When taking pictures after sunset from the Empire State Building, make sure that you bracket your exposures. Your first shot should correspond to the meter inside your camera. After that, try overexposing by 1-2 stops so as to bring out more detail in the buildings and streets below (you probably will not have to bracket if your subject is brightly illuminated and fills your entire frame). Also, by stopping down your lens, you will be able to keep your camera open a little longer to "paint" your photo with the white and red streaks of moving automobiles.

While most buildings are safe to visit, you should give considerable thought to how you want to get to and from these spots. Night, which is when I believe you can get your best photos, is not a time to be walking around the city with a large tripod and expensive looking camera bag. Fortunately, you do not need a heavy tripod to take night photos atop the Empire State Building. In fact, because there are no guard railing between the photographer and the window, it is actually advantageous to rely on a smaller table tripod. In addition, one or two lenses can be easily carried in a jacket pocket or inconspicuous shoulder bag.

If you do not want to travel around the city with your cameras at night, you can still take stunning photos of the Manhattan skyline without setting foot in New York. **Liberty State Park** in Jersey City, New Jersey, is a premier location for photographing New York City's taller landmarks. Located directly across the Hudson Bay from the Statue of Liberty, the park affords some of the **best views of New York's skyline**. At night, you can clearly make out the Empire State and Chrysler Buildings, as well as other mid-town skyscrapers. The Brooklyn and Verrazano Narrows Bridges and the Staten Island Ferry are also visible in the distance.

The park is a 1,114 acre urban park with picnic areas, playgrounds, a restored railroad terminal (from which early immigrants departed), the Liberty Science Center, and ferry access to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. There is also the nearby **Caven Point Pier** that offers famous views of the New York skyline with the Statue of Liberty in the foreground. However, a local photographer recently told me that the pier may have been closed, so check before visiting that site.

Given its proximity to the New Jersey Turnpike, Newark, and Manhattan, it is a surprisingly relaxed place to walk or just loaf away a couple of hours. On a recent visit to the park, I took sunset photos of the light reflecting off of Manhattan's skyscrapers. The next morning, I captured the silhouette of New York's skyline against the predawn sky. At sunrise, I caught the sun rising directly behind the Statue of Liberty. You can also visit the park during the day, but my experiences on this trip suggests that the

light is most interesting before sunrise and after sunset. Since you will be driving to the park, you will be able to bring along all of the gear that is needed to capture the city at night. The one time that I visited the park at sunrise, the only people I saw were two photographers and a couple out for an early morning stroll. Thus, it appears to be a fairly safe place to visit at sunrise.

To get to Liberty State Park, take the New Jersey Turnpike (Extension) to Exit 14B (there will also be signs for the Holland Tunnel and Jersey City). The signs for the park are well marked immediately after you pay the toll. There are a number of medium priced hotels in the area, in case you want to stay close by to take photos at sunrise. I recommend arriving at the park about an hour before sunrise to get the best predawn light Be careful, however, what time of year you venture up to the park for sunrise pictures. It is open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. from April through October, and 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. from November through March.

Nova Scotia, Canada - by Rich Blanquet

Fotofax, February 1994

Nova Scotia is a land of outstanding natural beauty, colorful history and cultural diversity offering unique subject material for those of broad photographic interests. Before, and during, the planning of your trip, I would strongly advise your browsing through a 300 page publication Nova Scotia: The Doer's and Dreamer's Complete Guide. This is available free of charge from the NS Department of Tourism and Culture (1-800-341-6096).

While this might seem an arduous task, it's not as bad as it sounds. Besides the usual information on accommodations, parks, festivals, etc., the guide divides NS into seven, color-coded districts. Within each district, a driving tour of the major scenic highways and roads takes you on a point to point excursion, briefly describing each city and point of interest along the way including lodging and dining supplements.

Another valuable feature is a telephone Check-In Service. Since my family and I prefer to tour at our leisure without a preset timetable, lodging accommodations are usually worrisome and a major hassle. The service allows one to book a reservation anywhere in Nova Scotia, at any time, free of charge. Most bed and breakfasts are not, unfortunately, listed.

Since most people associate Nova Scotia with the tides in the **Bay of Fundy**, the first of our on-site locations will begin in north central NS on a tour along the **Glooscap Trail**. Ancient Micmac Indian legend has it that the area was defined when the mighty Glooscap hurled five islands into the Bay and showered the land with "gems" (Gasper, agate, ruby and amethyst) - these draw thousands of rock hounds to the area each year. The trip starts with a short drive north along Route 102 from Halifax to the city of Truro. Though our stay in the city was a short one, for those who spend more time there, I'd recommend an early morning or evening stroll through **Victoria Park** - a 1,000 acre natural woodland area where walking trails offer numerous and diverse

photo opportunities of winding streams, wildflowers, gorges and waterfalls. The bird watching was excellent.

Our first adventure, and a must for most people, was to "ride a tidal bore". The **Bay of Fundy** is remarkable for its extremely high tides - the highest being measured at 54 feet. While tidal fluxes in the open ocean are barely noticeable, certain V-shaped bays or inlets allow large amounts of water to enter the wide end. As the water passes along, it is in effect squeezed by the ever narrowing sides and rising bottom and piles up at the narrow end of the bay. The rising tide eventually overrides the water from inflowing rivers and continues up river as a wave or "bore". The bore can vary in height from a few feet to a disappointing ripple depending on the season and lunar cycle.

Inflatable rafts (Zodiacs) can ride this wave many miles upstream. Though several outfits offer such trips, I would recommend those leaving from the Shubenacadie Tidal Bore Park located 7 miles off Route 102, Exit 10. After "riding the bore", the raft heads back down river riding 3-10 foot rapids created as an aftermath of the bore.

Prepare for a wild roller-coaster ride and a thorough drenching. I would not recommend taking expensive cameras or equipment on the trip even if well protected since there is a good chance they can be washed overboard. Afterward, the cruise continues in a now calm river for about another hour while the guide explains the area.

Photos of others enjoying a similar experience can be easily taken from observation decks or other vantage points along the river. Eagle watching tours are also available by previous registration. During the winter months, when the fish are concentrated in small, unfrozen areas in the river, the park boasts the highest concentration of bald eagles on the eastern coast.

Traveling west along Route 2, the **Glooscap Trail** follows the shores of the **Minas Basin and Cobequid Bay**. This drive offers numerous vantage points for observing the tidal fluxes. At low tide vast stretches of red to pink sand flats are laid bare and offer spectacular photographic vistas. At the small town of Economy (pop. 155), a 5 mile drive on River Phillip Road leads to the beautiful **Economy Falls**. A well developed hiking trail leads you into a gorge through sugar maples, ferns, and wildflowers. Blueberry fields can be seen blue with fruit in August. On the return trip, the top of the last rise offers a great view of the **Minas Basin**. On leaving Economy, follow the signs to **Five Islands Provincial Park** which has campgrounds, beach, hiking trails and interpretive signs explaining the geology of the area. At low tide, one can venture out onto the sand flats for a clamming excursion or to photograph the locals collecting the harvest. Beautiful views of the Five Islands are available from the beach. A word of caution! In some, places, the high tide comes in as fast as one inch per minute often catching adventurous beach-combers too far from shore. From the park, route 2 climbs the side of **Gerrish (Economy) Mountain** (700 ft above sea level) offering a view of the surrounding countryside.

A short ride westward leads to the city of **Parrsboro**, the major tourist center on the Trail which serves as headquarters for rock hounds in search of semiprecious stones. An annual **Rock hound Roundup** is held each year in August and the **Fundy Geological Museum** features a fascinating collection of dinosaur fossils and gems of the area. The dramatic effect of the tide on shipping can be viewed and photographed from the **Parrsboro Wharf** where fishing boats are left stranded high and dry during the lowest tides. About three miles east of town is **Hidden Falls**, a 125 ft waterfall.

At Parrsboro, Route 2 joins Route 209 West to **Advocate Harbour**, another town where one can photograph high dry boats at low tide. Near Advocate is a rock formation called the **Three Sisters** which is quite beautiful. The **road west to Cape d'Or** lives up to its reputation as one of the **most under-rated scenic drives on mainland Nova Scotia**. The **light house** at Cape d'Or offers a thrilling view from a high ledge above the **Bay of Fundy**. The "Cape of Gold" gets its name from the copper deposits in the surrounding rocks which impart a golden hue to the area at sunrise or sunset. I could not confirm this, since the days were rainy and foggy during our stay.

The final location of this brief excursion is the little town of **Joggins** which is famous for its **Coal Age rock formations**. A small but very informative museum relates its geologic story about 300 million years ago. A short walk from the Museum leads to a beach where one can observe **fossilized trees** embedded in the 150 ft sandstone cliffs. The area is protected but visitors may remove small fossils from the beach. Two hour tours of the area are offered. From here, the Glooscap Trail ends at the city of Amherst, where you can choose to enter New Brunswick by crossing the **bridge over the Missaguash River**.

Comments and suggestions: The **weather** in Nova Scotia is unpredictable. Our trip in early summer was particularly wet and foggy. Bring wet weather gear and protection for cameras and equipment. A variety of lenses and filters is helpful (necessary) depending on your photographic interests. Also bring a good set of binoculars.

Wildflowers are EVERYWHERE! The people of Nova Scotia are extremely friendly and helpful. I'd recommend spending at least a night or two at a Bed and Breakfast. Our rooms were always clean and comfortable. The informal atmosphere offers the opportunity to get to know the people on a more personal level and the information and suggestions from the locals often proved invaluable.

Colorado - by Brice Harbert

Fotofax, March 1994

So you plan to make a photo trip to Colorado, you have a limited amount of time to spend, and you want to see the best of what Colorado has to offer.

Presumably, you will fly to Denver and pick up a rental car. Now where shall you head? My answer to that question follows. But first a warning. Plan your trip between the last week in May and the end of September. Beyond this time window, some of the most scenic roads are closed. My favorite time is the latter part of September when the aspens are usually in their full fall glory.

From Denver head west on 1-70. Once out the metropolitan area, you will be amazed at the sights you see while driving on an Interstate! Just past the town of Frisco (about 80 miles west of Denver) turn south on Hwy 91 to Leadville, then go south from Leadville on Hwy 24 for 15 miles. Turn west on Hwy 82 which takes you by the Twin Lakes area, then across Independence Pass, and on to Aspen.

From Aspen, there are **two spectacular drives to take**. About 15 miles southwest of Aspen is **Maroon Park**, home of the Maroon Bells. The Bells are the most photographed mountains in Colorado and, arguable, the most scenic. Getting to Maroon Park can be a hassle, unless your timing is right. From June to Labor Day, you must park near Aspen and ride a bus to the park. However, if you arrive before 8:00 a.m., you may drive on in. (It pays to get up early!) After Labor Day, you may drive to the park throughout the day. I suggest you go early. After about noon, the sun is behind the Bells and neither good photos nor viewing can be obtained. In the morning, the Bells are beautifully lighted by the sun (mostly sidelight).

Another beautiful drive from Aspen is the road to **Castle Peak**. Just after you've turned south from Hwy 82, west of Aspen, headed for Maroon Park, you will see a church on the left. You go straight if you're headed for Maroon Park. Turn left in front of the church to go to Castle Peak. More lovely scenery lies ahead. Both Maroon Park and Castle Peak are about 12-15 miles past the church on different roads.

You will probably want to spend at least one night in the Aspen area. However, unless your name is followed by the letters "M.D." you will probably get sticker shock when you price Aspen hotels. Basalt, about 20 miles west of Aspen, has a decent Best Western, and Glenwood Spring, 45 miles west of Aspen, has numerous affordable offerings.

Once you're ready to depart the Aspen area, drive west on Hwy 82 and turn left in Carbondale on Hwy 133. Head South on 133 for about 80 miles; another drive offering spectacular mountain scenery. About 30 miles south of Carbondale is the town of **Redstone**. It's worth a slight detour to drive through. The Redstone Inn is one of four Colorado hotels in the Historic Hotels of America. Redstone is also a great place for lunch if you're there at that time of day.

Once you reach Hotchkiss, where 133 ends, go west on Hwy 92 to Delta, then go south on Hwy 50 to Montrose. From Montrose, go east on 50 eight miles to the road that will take to the south rim of the **Black Canyon of the Gunnison**. The Black Canyon is one of the beautiful, unique, and under-publicized spots in Colorado. It's also a great place for photographs! Like the Grand Canyon, the best photos are made early in the morning and late in the afternoon. In the middle of the day, the sunlight on the canyon wall is terribly flat. On the other hand, sunrise and sunset don't work either. The sun must be a ways above the horizon before light strikes the canyon wall. Most of the canyon's overlooks are reached by short hikes from designated parking areas. Pay attention to the vegetation along the trails. I love the gnarled Utah Junipers that are plentiful in the park. At appropriate times, you may find interesting wildflowers also. I find morning is the best time to photograph the overlook on the eastern side of the park and afternoon for the western side. My favorite canyon viewing (and photographing) spot is the Painted Wall Overlook. and it's best about 2-3 hours before sunset.

From the Black Canyon, go back to Montrose and head south on Hwy 550 to the **San Juan mountain range**. This area bounded by Ridgeway to the north, Durango to the south, and Cortez to the southwest is probably the "best of the best" mountain areas in Colorado. This area includes **Ouray, Telluride, Silverton, Mesa Verde National Park, and the "Million Dollar Highway"** from Ouray to Durango). Upon reaching the city limits Ouray (pronounced YOU-RAY) you will see a sign proclaiming "the Switzerland of America". Ouray gets no argument from me on this point. Ouray is also a good base from which to see most all of the San Juan area.

When driving along Hwy 550 feel free to explore the gravel side roads. Some of these, however, are "4 wheel drive only" roads, so if you have a 4 wheel drive vehicle, that's a plus. Companies offering rental 4 wheel drive vehicles abound in Ouray and Silverton. Just outside of Ouray is a "4 wheel drive only" road that goes to Yankee Bay Basin. Many claim that **Yankee Bay** is the best spot in Colorado for **wildflowers**. The latter part of July is when the wildflowers are usually at their peak.

From Ouray, head south to **Silverton**. Although it's only 23 miles, plan to spend a few hours on this trip. There are endless scenic turnouts from the road that offer much beauty. Silverton, like Ouray, is a **picturesque old mining town** that's worth exploring. This was the site of the 1950 Anne Baxter - Don Dailey movie "A Ticket to Tomahawk" which was recently revived by American Movie Classics on Cable TV.

From Silverton, head south to Durango. The spectacular mountain scenery continues for 20 miles or so south of Silverton. Durango is the home of the **Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad**. If you have a day to spare, this steam locomotive takes you through more mountain scenery and is a whole lot of fun. Reservations a month in advance are recommended. (For reservation call 303-247-2733).

From Durango, head west on Highway 160, about 35 miles, to the entrance to **Mesa Verde National Park**. Mesa Verde features some of the best preserved cliff dwellings

of the **Anassazi Indians**. While you can see some of the highlights of the park in a few hours, at least a full day is recommended.

From Mesa Verde head to Cortez and then go north on **Hwy 145 to Telluride**. This 75 mile drive offers more wonderful San Juan mountain scenery. Once you get to Telluride, look around, have lunch, but don't spend the night here (unless, of course, money is no object). Telluride has recently eclipsed Aspen as Colorado's priciest ski resort.

From Telluride, go west on Hwy 145 seventeen miles to Hwy 762 (and pay attention the views). Turn right on 62 to reach Ridgeway, where our San Juan tour began. Choose you own route back to Denver or wherever you're headed. If you have extra time, you could head northwest and swing by **Arches National Park** in Utah, or you could take the southern route and stop by the **Great Sand Dunes** near Alamosa. But you ask why were such popular places as Rocky Mountain National Park and the Colorado Springs areas not included in my suggested trip? My answer is, if you have addition time after you've spent the all time you wanted to at the recommended sites, then visit them. However, I find the major claim to fame of these two areas is that they are close to Denver.

I hope you enjoy Colorado as much as I have.

Calvert County, Maryland - by Dave Carter

Fotofax, April, 1994

With the Chesapeake Bay on one side and the Patuxent River on the opposite side, Maryland's Calvert County is almost completely surrounded by water. It is a relatively quiet area which is easy to reach from the Washington area. Take Maryland route 5 southeast from the beltway through Waldorf to Hughesville. At Hughesville take route 231 through scenic southern Maryland to Prince Frederick.

Turn left on route 2/4 at Prince Frederick. Although its population is only about 600, Prince Frederick is the county seat of Calvert County. The town was burned by British raiders in 1814. Another fire in 1882 destroyed the remains of the town, so there are no old buildings to photograph.

As you go north within the town, very quickly you will come upon Dares Beach Road (route 402). Turn right and drive to Dares Beach on the Chesapeake Bay. Here a hollow in the cliffs makes the narrow beach accessible and allows a view of Calvert Cliffs as they curve to the south.

Return to route 2/4 and, if you would like to take a side trip, turn right. This leg of your journey will carry you just across the border into Anne Arundel County. When routes 2 and 4 separate stay on route 2 across the county border and turn right on route 256 to Deale, Maryland. Deale is a picturesque fishing and boat-building community where you should find plenty of subject matter for your camera.

Return to route 2 and turn left. Drive back into Calvert County. You might wish to take route 260 to the left. This road leads to Chesapeake Beach on the bay. I don't know of anything special here except for a railroad museum. Another route over to the bay lies to the south. Turn left on route 263 to Plum Point. Again, this is a road I have not explored. When you leave return to route 2/4 and turn left. Continue south.

Just south of Prince Frederick turn right on route 506 (Sixes Road) and watch for Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary signs. Make a left on Gray's Road. The sanctuary is a quarter of a mile down Gray's Road on the right. More than 30 years ago this area was purchased by the Nature Conservancy to protect the northernmost stand of bald cypress trees in North American. At one time, about 120,000 years ago, bald cypress swamps were common throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. Very few of the trees have survived, probably due to climatic changes.

The 100-acre Battle Creek Preserve can be explored via boardwalks. Some of the trees tower more than 100 feet into the air and are four feet in diameter. The best times to visit are spring and early summer and in the fall. Along the boardwalk look for ferns and wildflowers including lady slippers, cardinal flowers, lizard tail, and gigantic vines of poison ivy. Wildlife is plentiful including deer, pileated woodpeckers, warblers, raccoon, opossum, mink, turtles, and salamanders. Waterproof shoes or boots may be helpful in some areas.

The nature center staff offers guided tours. They will be happy to help you identify what you see. There are also interesting exhibits in the visitor center including an operating bee hive where you can watch and photograph the bees making honey. Retrace your steps on Gray's Road, but turn right on route 264 (Broomes Island Road). Go about one-half mile to Christ Church. The present church was built in 1772. There is a one-room school house on the grounds and a unique garden of biblical plants.

Continue east on route 264 to Broomes Island, a small community of oyster men and fishermen. From September to March you can see working oyster boats. Retrace your steps to route 264 and turn right. The exit to Calvert Beach and Long Beach will lead you to views of the Chesapeake Bay. However, the main attractions lie further south. Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant lies to your left. Visitors are not permitted, but the visitor center does provide an audio-visual tour of the plant.

Next, on the left, look for the entrance to Calvert Cliffs State Park. Here you should be prepared for a short hike to the beach area at the base of the cliffs. Some of the cliffs are up to 150 feet high. They were first described by Captain John Smith in 1608 following his exploration of the Chesapeake Bay. The cliffs were formed about 15 million years ago when all of southern Maryland was covered by a shallow sea. The fossils of more than 600 species of marine life have been taken from the cliffs and identified. The patterns they form in the wall of the cliff make interesting subjects to photograph. Most abundant in the area are the teeth of various species of sharks

along with the shells of crabs, clams, oysters, and many species of now extinct mollusks. There are also many fossils of whale and porpoise bones. You are not allowed to dig for fossils, but anything you find on the beach you can keep. I recommend that you **visit the cliffs at sunrise** and photograph them in warm morning light. The park is also rumored to be an excellent area for spring wildflowers.

Return to your car and continue south on route 2/4. **Middleham Chapel**, the oldest cruciform-designed church in Maryland, is just off the main highway on route 24 at Lusby. Near the present building, which dates back to 1748, lie many gravestones from the early 1700's.

Return to route 2/4 and, two miles south of Lusby, turn left on route 497 to **Cove Point Lighthouse**. The structure is at the end of the road. This 51-foot high lighthouse is the oldest brick tower lighthouse in the Chesapeake Bay area. The Coast Guard lighthouse has been in continuous use from 1828 to the present. Until 1877 the lights were fueled by whale, colsa (conola), and lard oils. Last time I was there, the lighthouse was open to the public, but not every day. Call (410) 326-4281 for further information. There is an excellent view from the top of the tower.

Return to route 2/4 and turn left. At the southern tip of the county is the tiny town of **Solomons**, almost entirely surrounded by water. It lies between the Chesapeake Bay and the mouth of the Patuxent River, which is two miles wide at this point. There are plenty of boats to photograph at the dock area, and there are plenty of seafood restaurants too.

One of the most interesting places in Solomons is the **Calvert Marine Museum** and Lighthouse devoted to local maritime history. Photograph the artifacts and visit the museum's cottage lighthouse with screw-type piles. The lighthouse was moved here from its original location off Drum Point. The museum also offers cruises on the Patuxent River estuary on a chunk-built, log canoe. The cruises are available May through October, Wednesday through Sunday.

Calvert County is probably relatively unfamiliar territory to most of you. Give it serious consideration next time you want to take a photographic day trip. You won't be disappointed.

Tangier and Smith Islands - by Ed Funk and Dave Carter

Fototax, May 1994

Fifty-two islands dot the Chesapeake Bay, but none are so special as Tangier and Smith Islands. Isolation of these islands from the mainland insulated residents from the rapid development that has taken place elsewhere and contributed to the preservation of the Elizabethan style of speech and grammar. We will explore Smith and Tangier Islands from our base in Crisfield, Maryland.

Crisfield boasts a 300-year history and proclaims itself "the seafood capital of the world" The original English settlers, who arrived about 1667, called this area Annemessex or "bountiful waters." Crisfield is located on an inlet of Tangier Sound and is protected by islands. In 1866, a spur of the New York, Philadelphia, and Norfolk Railroad was completed in order to speed the transport of crabs and oysters to the northeast.

Crisfield became a bustling community and large numbers of pleasure boats moved in along side the fishing boats. At the turn of the century, Crisfield ranked among the nation's top five in the number of registered boats. Luxury steamers provided nightly voyages to Baltimore and Norfolk. Overnight cruises to Hampton Roads, Norfolk, and Portsmouth still operate on weekends.

Crisfield will provide many photographic opportunities. The **commercial waterfront** continues as a center of activity. Watermen unload their fishing vessels and the harvest is processed by local seafood businesses. The nearby picturesque **Somers Cove Marina** is situated in a natural cove surrounded by marshlands and waterfront wildlife. Historic homes and landmarks include the early colonial architecture of **Mockups**, built in 1663. This is one of the oldest houses in Maryland and can be found on Johnson's Creek Road. The Victorian **Crockett House** on Main Street was completed in 1888 and contains detail that will delight the photographer with a telephoto lens. Two local barbers, Lem and Steve Ward, honed their skills between customers by carving **decoys** that were incredible likenesses of area birds. Their home has been preserved and their workshop on Sackertown Road is now a museum. Their work is on display in the North American Wildfowl Art Museum at Salisbury State University and also can be seen locally in the **Tawes Museum**. This museum, open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily, can be found in the Visitors Center at Somers Cove Marina. Admission is \$1.00.

Crisfield is the jumping off point for both **Smith and Tangier Islands**. The Smith Island cruise leaves Crisfield from Somers Cove Marina at 12:30 PM and returns at 5:15 PM. The regular round trip fare is \$16.00. A group rate of \$22.50 includes a hearty lunch at the Bayside Inn and a bus tour of the island that includes the villages of Ewell and Rhodes (previously Rogues) Point. The only other village, Tylerton, is not accessible by bus.

Many residents are direct descendants of the settlers who arrived in 1657 from England and Cornwall. The island was originally used for farming and grazing, but the "bountiful waters" changed the nature of the island's economy very early. The appetite in the northeast for the Bay's succulent blue crab and oysters provided an opportunity the farmers could not ignore.

Smith Island is not one, but a group of islands. The **Glenn L. Martin Nature Refuge** occupies 4400 acres to the north and consists of tidal marshes and hammocks. Bird watching enthusiasts visit **Swan Island** to enjoy the many species of birds along with the red fox, mink, otter and other wildlife. The refuge headquarters and visitor center are located in the **village of Ewell**.

The Methodist church in each of the communities provides a strong influence on the islands. Community business is handled by town meeting in the churches without the need for formal government. After almost four hundred years the citizens today believe it may soon be necessary to establish a formal government.

Tangier Island to the south is in Virginia and was first explored by Captain John Smith with a small group from Jamestown in 1608. The island had been a fishing and hunting ground for Indians from the eastern shore. John Crockett, a Cornishman, established the first permanent settlement in 1686 with his sons and their families. About a third of the residents today are Crocketts. If you listen closely you may catch a direct descendant's Elizabethan dialect.

Neatly kept **clapboard houses** provide photographic opportunities. Look for raised grave sites and headstones in some front yards. The houses and graves are on the highest land, about 5 feet above sea level. On King Street, the watermen meet at the Double Six and play dominoes. The Lawson's Clipshop is also a gathering place where residents sit and chat. Also, look for the historical marker on Tangier telling of the British Fleet anchoring here before the 1814 attack on Fort McHenry in Baltimore.

The Tangier cruise departs from the Crisfield dock at Tenth and Main Streets at 12:30 PM and returns at 5:15 PM. The round trip group fare is \$14.00. A family style dinner is available at Hilda Crockett's Chesapeake House for \$10.75. Golf Cart tours are also available for \$2.00 per person.

For those who don't want to spend all of their time on the island or in Crisfield, Chincoteague is only a few minutes away. Other eastern shore attractions are abundant.

Dallas - by Gretchen Kolsrud

Fotofax, Summer 1994

First, a few general impressions of Dallas, based on my experience living in Plano, a northern suburb, during February, March, and April. Dallas has much to offer Culturally, as one might expect in the seventh largest U.S. city. To cite just two examples, its **museum of art** has many delights for the eye and even for the ear, such as evenings of readings of literary works by local writers. **Meyerson Symphony Hall**, designed by Pei of National Gallery fame, is architecturally and acoustically splendid, as I can attest from attending three different events at three very different seating locations.

It's said that Dallas is the end of the east and Fort Worth is the beginning of the west. **Fort Worth** is more laid back, less glitzy, and less cosmopolitan. The two cities are intense cultural rivals. Visitors to Dallas should try to visit Fort Worth as well. Particularly noteworthy is the **Kimble (Amon Carter) Museum**. This museum is the permanent home of an extraordinary collection of Remington's paintings and bronzes of life in the early west and the bloody battles between the white man and the Indian. Fort Worth's very lovely six acre **Japanese Garden** is another site not to be missed.

Dallas is flat, very flat, and at least in spring, the winds blow almost every day. The lack of trees, especially large trees, except in older areas of the city, increases the effects of the wind. Macro and nature photographers pursuing their interests in Dallas may want to refurbish their skills in soft focus work and/or flash photography.

I discovered camera clubs in Dallas one weekend in mid-February when I visited the **Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary** north of the city. Hiking along one of the trails, and pondering what kind of wildflowers might then be in bloom in Dallas, I rounded a bend in the trail and discovered a magnificent display of trout lilies white ones! And, directly in my path was a woman with a Nikon F4 photographing them. Either this was a pro or I'd found my first advanced amateur in Dallas.

The answer was the latter. I'd stumbled onto Ramona Putnam, founder of the Heard Museum Nature Photography Club. She was working on a personal project to improve the picture collection of local wildflowers in the Heard Museum. We became friends, and I attended a couple of the Heard photo club's meetings, gave copies of our newsletter to Ramona, and went with her and a friend on a wildflower photography shoot to Austin in April (more later).

The Heard photo group specializes in nature photography and meets once a month at the Museum to hear talks that emphasize nature photography, announce club trips, and socialize. At one of its meetings I talked with a member of the Dallas Photography Club. The Dallas group sounds a lot like our club with two or more meetings a month, competitions, program speakers, and club trips and workshops. Unfortunately, I did not have time to explore that club further, and missed a Dallas skyline shoot with them because of professional obligations connected with my fellowship at the Green

Center. There are several other camera clubs in Dallas as well, so it's rather like the DC area in numbers of clubs.

The Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary was my favorite natural place while I was in Dallas. Its hiking trails meandered through trees and green glades and occasionally included a very small hill. (I missed East Coast hills and green!) Birds are plentiful and many species can be observed at the feeders behind the museum. The museum itself has several interesting small collections of archaeology, nature, and local history which are fun to browse. The staff is tops in friendliness and helpfulness.

The **Connemara Conservancy** is an outdoor "museum of the Texas landscape" and consists of acres of fields and meadows on land held in trust just north of Dallas. Each spring about a dozen artists are selected in a nationwide competition to come to Connemara and create outdoor works of art in the meadows. These works are expected to be temporary and follow a natural disintegration over the several months after they are erected as they interact with the elements and the public. For example, one artist this spring installed a work called Cycles that depicts the cycle between conversion of farmland to houses and back. Her art consisted of small dirt houses containing native grass seed. Just as new developments spring up overnight, her tiny houses appear,

and then dissolve, adding to the grassland on which they are erected. The artists at Connemara provide some unique photo opportunities each year.

Another excellent Dallas site for nature photographers is the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. It's open daily, year-round except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The arboretum is minutes from downtown Dallas, on the eastern shore of White Rock lake.

At 66 acres, this arboretum is much smaller than the National Arboretum, more on the scale of Brookside Gardens. Also unlike the National Arboretum, you park and walk, rather than drive through the grounds. A highlight of the Dallas arboretum is its azaleas, one of the largest collections in the country with over 2,000 varieties, including a Huang collection - rare in the U.S. At least two azalea trees are more than 200 years ago.

The arboretum is housed on the grounds of what was the **DeGolyer Estate**, which the city of Dallas acquired in 1976. The DeGolyer House is one of two major buildings on the grounds, and is open for tours. Everette DeGolyer (1886-1956) has been called the father of geophysical exploration, because he was instrumental in developing many seismographic instruments useful in searching for petroleum. Original furnishings of the DeGolyer home include Flemish tapestries and English antiques. The other building, Camp House, was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Camp and was designed by John Staub, a famous Texas residential architect. It houses the arboretum's administrative offices and is available for private rental. In my mid-February visit a wedding was underway; again, rather like Brookside Gardens.

The arboretum includes a fern garden with a unique artificial fog system that provides local cooling as much as 15 degrees below ambient temperature. I saw this system in operation on my second visit. Photographers like it as much as the ferns, since it provides mist and dew in abundance. The arboretum includes a rose garden, a pecan grove (noteworthy for the shade of these trees and its picnic tables), a herb garden, and my favorite, "Mimi's Garden". Mimi's Garden was inspired by Gertrude Jekyll, an English landscape designer ca. 1900. One enters through an iron gate topped by twisted green metal rods resembling vines. Inside is a magic kingdom of cascading ponds, walls of water, meandering paths, and a quiet bamboo tunnel that must be a place of solace in the Texas summer heat. Seasonal flowers abound; daffodils and pansies in mid-February for example, and tulips beginning in late March.

After leaving the Arboretum exit right and drive the short distance to the next right, Lanther Drive, which takes you into the **White Rock Lake recreational area**. You can walk, jog, and bike around the several miles of paved path that circumnavigate this very large lake, which, like all the lakes in the Dallas area are manmade, originally (and in some cases still) serving as reservoirs. There are lots of opportunities for photography, especially of seagulls and various species of duck (where your efforts will be aided by folks who bring bread to feed these birds, thus luring them into easy reach of your lens). Sailboats racing each other over the water provide another photo opportunity.

The **largest equestrian sculpture in the world** is located at the Las Colinas Urban Center, a 12,000 acre business and residential complex in Irving, a suburb near the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. The nine bronze life-sized Mustangs of Las Colinas gallop through a water stream in a granite plaza below business skyscrapers. The mustangs were created by wildlife artist Robert Glen of Nairobi, Kenya, and are beloved by children and adults alike. Nearby Mandalay Canal Walk features Venetian built water taxis and a monorail that takes riders through the Las Colinas business complex and across Lake Carolyn (not operational on Sunday).

From Las Colinas, follow route 114 east towards the heart of Dallas downtown. The route number changes from 114 to 183 and then merges with Interstate 35E which will take you directly to **Commerce Street and Dealey Plaza** in the heart of Central Dallas.

Here you can photograph the Grassy Knoll (a marker indicates the precise spot where President Kennedy was hit) and visit the tasteful and educational exhibit on Mr. Kennedy's presidency and assassination on the sixth floor of the former Texas School Book Depository (now the Dallas County Administration Building). The 9,000 square foot exhibit is very detailed, extremely well done, and moving. The window where Oswald shot Mr. Kennedy is sealed off in glass (or plastic). Behind the glass, book boxes are piled about, just as they were that day so long ago, and the window in the southeast corner remains raised for a sniper's fire. You can't stand in that window but you can look down from a window fifteen feet or so to the right and see the marker

that indicates where JFK was hit and wonder at Oswald's extraordinary marksmanship with a \$12 mail order rifle.

Downtown Dallas has some extraordinary skyscrapers that cry out for architectural photographers to "Shoot me!" My favorite is the **First Interstate Bank Building**. Cloaked in deep green mirrored glass, it rises to a peak, unlike most commercial buildings today which end abruptly in a flat horizontal roof. The really special part of the First Interstate building is what it has at its feet. All around at street level are pools of water containing trees and small fountains. In an inner atrium is a central stone square that's about 40 feet on a side with holes at street level set on 2 foot centers from which erupt fountains of water of varying height in constantly changing patterns.

Controlled by the whims of a computer, the fountains erupt from the ground to form hollow or solid squares, lines, diagonals, and triangles. Varying in height from a modest six inches or so to about 20 feet, the fountains produce a lovely and constantly entertaining display for adults. For children, they are a constant challenge. The children can't resist attempting to outguess where the next fountains will arise and run across the square, sometimes to be fully wetted by an unexpected watery eruption. A great place to get startle pictures!

Texas is a wildflower Mecca and early April is the time to be there for the state flower, the bluebonnet. Flowers are everywhere - poking up through suburban lawns, in blankets along freeways, and as carpets among the trees in what passes for forested areas in the Dallas area of Texas. For a nice wildflower trip, head south on 1-281 to Burnet, west of Austin. Stay at the Rocky Rest B&B on 1-281 just south of its intersection with route 29. Besides a pleasant sleep in an antique appointed room and a good breakfast, you can admire and photograph the eight male peacocks and three female peahens that wander the grounds. And, about 15 minutes away is the spectacular 65 acre display of wildflowers at the Buchanan Yacht Resort (512-793-2568) at Buchanan Dam. There I found acres of bluebonnets accented by red and orange Indian paintbrush, pink showy primrose, white poppies, deep purple winecups, and bright yellow wood sorrel with its deep purple centers.

You can return by following route 71 to 620 which runs north from Bee Cave west of Austin. Follow this scenic drive through rolling hills to route 2222 at Four Points. About a mile before the junction with route 2222 you may want to take a detour to the left to follow the access road to the Oasis restaurant with its spectacular view of Lake Travis. The restaurant claims that it is the sunset capital of the world. I'm dubious, but, hey, I was there at noon so can't claim any evidence to the contrary. The view of the lake is lovely. Follow 2222 to its intersection with 1-35 in Austin, passing some nice Austin residential areas on the way. Once you hit 1-35, you have a straight shot north to Dallas.

Also of interest are the dinosaur tracks at Glen Rose. I didn't see them but wish I had had time. They're on my list for the next visit.

This page intentionally left blank.

INDEX

Adventure World.....	17	Brookside Gardens	17, 82, 102, 127
Advocate Harbour	118	Broomes Island.....	122
Air Show at Andrews Air Force Base.....	18	Brunswick, Md.....	22
Alexandria Visitors Association.....	9	Bryson City	52
Allegheny Central Scenic Railroad.....	85	Buck Hollow Overlook.....	70
Alsatia Festival.....	21	Buckeystown, Md	18
Amish	5, 25, 44, 45, 46	Bud Ogle Farm.....	56
Annapolis.....	18, 19, 74, 84	Busch Gardens	15
Antietam Battlefield	34	C&O Canal	18, 21, 38, 93, 99, 100, 101
Antietam National Battlefield	19, 22, 95	C&O Canal Museum	21
Arches National Park.....	121	Cades Cove.....	23, 56, 57
Ark of Safety.....	92	Cahas Mountain Overlook	50
Asheville.....	51	Calvert Cliffs State Park	20, 88, 122
Assateague	16, 20, 46, 47, 48, 85	Calvert County	3, 20, 121, 122, 123
Assateague Lighthouse.....	48	Cambridge	19, 20, 30, 84
Assawoman Game Refuge.....	23	Canaan.....	22
Atlantic City	24, 42, 43	Canaan Valley State Park.....	22, 59
Bald Knob	60	Cape d'Or.....	118
Ball Memorial Library and Museum.....	15	Cape Hatteras	23, 77, 79, 80
Baltimore 3, 18, 20, 46, 72, 73, 74, 75, 96, 124, 125		Cape Hatteras Lighthouse	23, 79
Banco	91	Cape Heniopen.....	63
Battle Creek Preserve	122	Cape Lookout.....	23
Bay Bridge,.....	19, 41	Cape May	3, 24, 41, 42, 43, 44, 65
Bay of Fundy.....	116, 117, 118	Capitol Building.....	35, 113
Bealeton, Virginia	11, 65, 66	Capitol Reflecting Pool	36
Beckley.....	60	Carlyle House.....	9
Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine.....	60	Carmelite Monastery.....	21
Belle Haven Park.....	3, 27, 113	Cass Scenic Railroad	22, 60
Beulah's	92	Castle Peak	119
Big Run	21	Catoctin Mountain National Park	19, 28
Billy Goat Trail.....	18, 38, 98	Catoctin Mountain Park	19, 76
Biltmore Estate	51	Caverns of the Blue Ridge.....	12
Black Canyon of the Gunnison	120	Cedarville State Park	21
Blackwater Falls	22, 39, 59	Charles County	21
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge ... 3, 29, 30, 84		Charlottesville, Virginia.....	14
Blackwater River.....	22	Chasteen Creek Trail.....	53
Blackwater Wildlife Refuge,.....	19	Cheat Mountain	22
Blue Ridge Parkway. 3, 13, 23, 49, 52, 53, 55, 86		Cherokee	53, 55
Bluebird Trail.....	106	Cherry Blossoms	3, 17, 81
Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge.. 23, 63, 64		Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.....	20, 74
Boy Scout National Jamboree.....	11	Chesapeake Bay Bridge Walk.....	19
Brandywine Park	24	Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum	19
Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge....	24, 42	Chesapeake City	20
Brookside Drive	81	Chestertown	20
		Chicamacomico Life Saving Station.....	79
		Chilhowee Mountains	55
		Chincoteague .3, 4, 16, 46, 47, 48, 49, 79, 125	
		Christ Church	9

Clingman's Dome	54	Eastern Shore	3, 16, 19, 29, 41
Coal Age rock formations.....	118	Economy Falls	117
Colorado	119	Ed Funk.....	2
Colvin Run Mill.....	10	Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge	24
Congress Hall	25	24
Conococheague Creek Bridge.....	101	Elizabeth Furnace	67, 68
Cove Point Lighthouse	123	Elizabethan Gardens.	23
covered bridge	45, 60	Ellicott City, Maryland	94
covered bridge - Belmont Road	45	Empire State Building	114
covered bridge - Hillsboro.....	60	Ernmitsburg	28
covered bridge - Pequea Recreation Area	46	Fairmount Park	25
.....	46	Falling Water Cascades	50
Covered Bridge - Rod		Falls of the Hills Creek.....	60
Roddy Road	19	Fell's Point	74
covered bridge - Rodddy Road	28	fishing port	15
covered bridge-Loys Station.....	28	Five Islands Provincial Park.....	117
covered bridges	19, 25, 28, 44	floating submarine	73
Crabtree Falls	49, 51	Fort Cumberland.....	21
Craggy Gardens	51	Fort Delaware State Park.....	23
Cranberry Glades.....	60	Fort Frederick.....	21
Cranberry Mountain Visitor Center.....	60	Fort Raleigh National Historic Site.....	23, 80
Crisfield	20, 124, 125	Fort Valley Museum	68
Crockett House.....	124	fossils	
Culpepper	10	Calvert County	20, 118, 122, 123
Cumberland.....	21, 95, 96, 99, 101, 102	Frederick..	3, 18, 19, 21, 28, 29, 33, 39, 94, 95,
Cunningham Falls State Park	19, 28	96, 100, 121, 122	
Dallas	3, 126, 127, 128, 129	Fredericksburg	11, 14, 66
Dans Mountain.....	21	Friendship Firehouse	9
Dark Hollow Falls	12, 32	Frogtown Road	46
Dave Carter	2	Frostburg.....	21
Deale Island	20, 30, 31	FTB Valley	91
Deep Creek	21, 52, 53	G. Richard Thompson Area	39
Deep Creek Lake	21	Gadsby's Tavern.....	9
DELAWARE	23	Gatlinburg	55, 56, 57
Delaware City.....	23	George Washington Birthplace	14
Delaware Seashore State Park.....	23	George Washington National Forest .	13, 67,
Devils Backbone.....	50	70, 71	
Dolly Sods	22, 59	George Washington's sister.....	11
Dolly Sods Wilderness Area	58	Georgetown neighborhood	17
Dominion Wine Cellars.....	10	Georgian manor house	11
Doncaster State Forest	21	German Valley	58
Doughton Park.....	50	Gerrish (Economy) Mountain.....	117
Dranesville District Park	11, 37	Gettysburg	25, 28
Dumbarton Oaks	17, 83	Glen Echo Park.....	98
Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge		Glenn L. Martin Nature Refuge	125
Railroad.....	120	Glooscap Trail.....	116
Eastern Neck Island National Wildlife		Goshen Pass.....	85
Refuge.....	20	Grand Opera House.....	24
Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge	20	Grandfather Mountain.....	51

Gravelly Point.....	36	Kensington Orchids.....	18
Great Falls.....	9, 18, 38, 96, 98, 99	Kent Island.....	19
Great Falls Park.....	9	Kenwood, Md.....	17
Great Sand Dunes near Alamosa. But you ask why were such popular places as Rocky Mountain Na.....	121	Key Bridge.....	36
Great Smoky Mountains National Park ..	13, 23	Kill Devil Hills.....	78
Green Bank.....	59	King's Dominion.....	14
Greenbrier and Gambrill State Parks.....	29	Lancaster County, Pennsylvania	25, 44
Grotto Falls.....	57	Laura A. Barnes - shipwreck	78
Grotto of Lourdes	28	Laurel Falls.....	57
Hager House.....	21	Laurel Highlands.....	25
Hagerstown.....	21, 34, 94, 95, 96, 101	Lee family home	14
Hagley Museum.....	24	Lee-Fendall House.....	9
Hancock.....	21, 94, 96, 101, 102	Leesburg.....	10, 11, 94, 100
Harpers Ferry... 3, 22, 33, 92, 93, 94, 100, 101		Leipsic.....	23, 64
Harrisonburg, Va	11	Lewes	23, 43, 65
Hawk Mountain.....	25	Lewes, Delaware.....	23, 43
Henlopen State Park.....	65	Lexington Visitor Center	85
Herrington Manor	21	Liberty Bell Pavilion.....	25
Hershey.....	26	Lilypons Water Gardens.....	18, 28
Hershey Gardens	26	Linville Falls.....	51
Hillsboro.....	60	Lloyd House	9
Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Episcopal Church.....	24	Longwood Gardens.....	26, 46, 83
Hoover Camp.....	88	Luray Caverns,.....	12
Horsehead Sanctuary.....	3, 19, 41	Luray, Va.....	12
Horseshoe Curve National Historic Landmark.....	25	Mabry Mill	50
Hughes Hollow.....	38	Maloney Point	57
Humpback Rocks	49	Manassas	2, 10, 33, 34, 86
hunderbird Museum and Archeological Park	67	Maroon Park.....	119
Huntley Meadows Park	9, 38, 39, 61, 62	Martinsburg.....	22, 100
Independence Hall.....	25	Maryland Dove - ship.....	87
Independence National Historic Park.....	25	Maryland Heights.....	22, 33, 93, 100
Inn at Little Washington.....	89	Mascot Grist Mill	45
Intercourse.....	45	Mason Dixon Dragway	96
Jamestown	15, 16, 125	Mason Neck State Park.....	9
Jefferson Memorial.....	36	Massanutten.. 3, 12, 13, 32, 39, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71, 72	
Jefferson National Forest.....	13	Massanutten Visitor Center	70
Jockey's Ridge State Park.....	23, 78	Mateo, NC.....	23
Joggins.....	118	Mennonite	25, 45, 58
Josephine Garden.....	24	Meredyth Vineyards	10
Jousting Tournament.....	13	Mesa Verde National Park.....	120
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens... 16, 38, 82, 83, 102, 103		Middleburg.....	10, 31
Kennedy Center.....	35, 36, 96, 97	Middleham Chapel	123
		Minas Basin.....	117
		Minas Basin and Cobequid Bay.....	117
		Mingo Falls	53
		Mockups.....	124
		Monocacy Aqueduct	100
		Monocacy Civil War Battlefield.....	19

Monongahela National Forest	22, 58, 60, 61	Pennyfield Lock	99
Montgomery County Fair	18	Philadelphia	25, 124
Montross	14	Piedmont Area	14
Mormon Temple	112	Pike Festival	21
Mount Mitchell	51	Pine Barrens	24, 42, 43
Mount St. Mary's College	28	Point Lookout State Park	88
Mount Vernon	9, 105, 106	Point of Rocks	19, 22, 28
mountain areas in Colorado	120	Port Mahon	63, 64
Mountain Lock Road	100	Port Tobacco	21
National Aquarium	18, 73	Potomac River bridges	36
National Arboretum	17, 38, 83, 102, 104, 127	Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge	23
National Cathedral	17, 36, 81	Prince Michel Vineyards	10
National Colonial Farm	40, 105	Prince William Forest Park	3, 10, 76, 77
National Jousting Hall of Fame		Princess Anne	20
Tournament	13	Ramsay House	9
National Mall	17	Rapidan River Vineyards	10
National Radio Astronomy Observatory	59	Redstone	119
National Zoo	3, 17, 86	Richland Balsam	52
Natural Bridge	85	Richmond	14, 15, 33, 77, 107
Natural Chimneys	13, 71	Roanoke Island	80
Natural Chimneys Regional Park	71	Roanoke Mountain	50
Naval Gun Battery	22	Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail	55, 56, 57
Nemours in Delaware	24	Robert E. Lee's boyhood home	9
Nethers	91	Rock hound Roundup	118
New Germany	21	Rocky Gap	21
NEW JERSEY	24	Roosevelt Bridge	36
New Market, Virginia	13, 34	Route 20	11
New York City	3, 24, 106, 107, 110, 114, 115	Route 50	13
Norfolk Botanical Gardens	16	Route 688	11, 31
Norfolk harbor tour	16	Saddle	50
NORTH CAROLINA	23	Salisbury Zoo	48
Northern Neck area	14	Salmwood's Retrea	21
Oatlands Plantation	10	San Juan mountain range	120
Ocean City	3, 20, 30, 46, 83, 84, 85	Scott's Run Nature Preserve	11
Oconaluftee Visitors Center	53	Seneca Rocks	3, 22, 58, 60
Ocracoke Island	79, 80	Seven Fountains	68
Ohiopyle Park	25	Shenandoah Caverns	12, 13, 71
Old Post Office Building	35	Shenandoah National Park	12, 13, 39, 49, 58, 70, 88, 89, 90
Old Rag Mountain	13, 31, 32, 91	Shenandoah Valley	3, 12, 13, 32, 34, 69, 70, 85
Old Route 40	21	Shepherd College	22
Old Town, Alexandria	9	Shepherdstown	22, 93
Olmstead	24, 86	Silverton	120
Outer Banks	3, 23, 77, 78, 79, 80	Skateboard ramp	9
Oxford	19, 98	Skidmore Lake	58
Oxon Hill Farm	40	Sky Meadows State Park	11, 31
Parrsboro	118	Skyland Lodge	32
Parrsboro Wharf	118	Skyline Caverns	12, 67
Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge	23, 79		
PENNSYLVANIA	25		

Skyline Drive	12, 13, 23, 31, 32, 34, 39, 49, 58, 67, 70, 71, 72, 86, 89, 90, 91
Smart View	50
Smith Island	20, 124, 125
Smoke Hole Caverns	59
Smoky Mountain National Park	3, 52, 55
Snyder's Landing	101
Solomons	123
Solomons Island	88
Somers Cove Marina	124
Southern Maryland	3, 20, 40, 87
Spruce Knob	22, 39, 59
St. David's Church	69
St. Elizabeth Seton Shrine	28
St. Mary's County	20
St. Michaels	19, 74
Stephen Mather Gorge	9, 18
Stone Bridge	34
Stone House	34
Stony Man Trail	12
Strasburg Railroad	25, 46
Stratford Hall Plantation	14
Subway Restaurant	96
Sudley Church	34
Sugarlands Visitors Center	56, 57
Sugarloaf Mountain	18, 28, 100
Suitland Bog	17
Sully Plantation	10
Swallow Falls	21
Syria	91
Tangier Island	20, 30, 125
Tawes Museum	124
Taylor's Landing	101
The Dove	20
The Flying Circus	3, 11, 65
The James River plantations	15
Thrasher Carriage Museum	21
Tidewater	3, 14
Tilghman Island	19
Toms Branch Falls	53
Torpedo Factory Art Center	9
Trimper's Carnival Rides	84
Turkey Run Park	38, 97
U.S.F. Constellation	73
Virginia Beach	16
Virginia Military Institute	85
Warrenton	2, 10, 34, 66, 70, 72, 86, 90, 91, 92
Warsaw	14
Washington and Lee University	85
Washington County	3, 21, 94, 95, 96
Washington Harbour	36
Washington Monument	35, 36, 97, 111, 112, 113
Washington, DC Area	16
Waterford	10
Watergate Hotel	36
Waterrock Knob	52
WEST VIRGINIA	22
Western Maryland	3, 21
White Haven	20, 30
White Oak Canyon Trail	12
White Swan Tavern	20
White's Ferry	11, 100
White's Ferry Terminal	11
Wilderness, Va	11
Williamsburg	15, 108
Wilmington, Delaware	24, 83
Winterthur Museum	24
Woodstock	69
World Trade Center	72, 73, 74
Wright Brothers National Memorial	23, 77, 78
Yankee Bay Basin	120
Yorktown	15
Ziem Vineyards	21