



Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs – SWMCCC 2020 Speaker Biographies

Art Becker

My name is Art Becker I was born in Erie, Pennsylvania and studied Photography at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. I started my commercial photography career in Fort Lauderdale/Miami. I returned to Erie, Pennsylvania in 1989 to 2013. I relocated to St Petersburg Florida 2014 for the blue skies and sunshine.

My photography has been used by, Apple, Amazon, Architectural Digest, Architectural Record, Time Magazine, ESPN Magazine, Gatorade, Coke-Cola, Conde Nast Traveler Magazine, Hallmark Cards, A&E Network, The Weather Channel, American Express, Random House Faith Magazine, Visa Gold, British Airways, Windham Hill Records, Universal Music Group Sony Music Entertainment, Warner Music Group, EMI Group, Rolling Stone Records,

David Culp

David is a professional nature photographer from the Asheville area of North Carolina. He was recently named as one of 42 Awesome Photographers by Photoshelter and his work can be seen in multiple books, tourist promotions and magazines around the world. His love for travel has led him to 49 of our states as well as 33 different countries. David strives to deliver imagery that tells a story, immersing the viewer into the scene, while maintaining a realism that is often missing in today's photography.

David grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina, but spent much of his time surrounded by nature on the hiking trails, lakes and streams of the North Carolina and Tennessee Mountains. Always eager to share his adventures from the most recent camping or hiking expedition, he took up photography as a hobby.

Around 2000, his corporate career changed direction to include international destinations where his true passion for travel and photography flourished. He found himself inspired by exposure to different cultures and a vast array of wilderness. Encouraged by some of the leading photographers of our time, David decided to leave the corporate world and pursue photography as a full-time career.

Today, David spends much of his time teaching others the art of photography while still finding time to chase the light and provide inspiring imagery. His photography tours and workshops focus on finding unique locations in the US and around the world. He loves to inspire others to improve their skills and to expand their comfort zones and hopes you will consider joining him on one of his adventures. You can learn more about his travels and tours at DavidCulpPhotography.com.

John Dykstra

John's love for photography and nature began when he was a child. The more he explored the more he could see God reveal himself in creation. That interest slowly developed into a passion to learn all that he could. He attended as many seminars, workshops and classes as possible and read anything that he could get his hands on about nature and photography. Practicing what he learned, John became a self-taught naturalist and professional photographer. As he became more knowledgeable and developed his special technique, John started John Dykstra Photography, a portrait photography studio. He found that the best way for him to expand his photography knowledge was to join a local camera club, which he did some 40 years ago. That was a catalyst for where he is today.

During his camera club years John found it a great help to rub shoulders with others that share the same interest that he had. He was vice president and president of the then Woodland Photo Club and now the River City Camera Club in Grand Rapids, Michigan. During his years in camera club and SWMCCC (Southwest Michigan Council of Camera Clubs) he won many awards and was one of their top photographers. John was a competitor in the initial "Art Prize" competition in Grand Rapids, Michigan as well as the 2012 "Artwalk" competition in Grand Haven, Michigan where his photograph "Fish Lake in the Fall" won 1st place and "most votes" (people's choice) awards in the 2012 competition. His image "A Taste of Magnificent Michigan" repeated as 1st place as well as "most votes" in the 2013 competition. Another of his photographs won 1st place in the 2010 "Great Lakes Forever" photography contest and the "People's Choice" award in the Outdoor Photographer Magazines "The Colors of Nature" 2011 contest.

Often he is asked to judge competitions and lead workshops, seminars and field trips. John has traveled and photographed the United States extensively and has lead photography tours to the Pacific Northwest, Southern



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Arizona, South Florida, Indiana, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Isle Royale National Park and West Michigan. John and one of his photography friends have been presenters for the PSA (Photo Society of America) at their annual convention in Portland, Oregon and at their West Yellowstone convention. In 2014 John was selected as an artist in the National Parks Service "Artist In-Residence" program at Michigan's Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. John also has several sight/sound presentations that have been widely shown in the West Michigan area.

John has recently retired from his portrait studio (of nearly 40 years) to devote more time to his passion for God's creation, photographing, instructing and sharing nature with others. John and Lake Effect Gallery (Carrie Rogers-O'Neal) have recently connected to offer his beautiful nature photography from small to very large sizes as home and office decorating options. John is offering special Feeder Bird Photography Sessions at his outdoor nature studio.

Melvin Guante

Since an early age, I was fascinated by The Arts. I looked at my uncle in amazement as he played with his enormously huge and shiny new camera. It had all the bells and whistles. It was then that I knew I wanted to be a photographer.

While in High School, my art teacher inspired my creativity and did not allow me to settle for the ordinary and encouraged me to get out of my comfort zone, so I could be more innovative. I went on to drawing, painting and making clay sculptures that were exhibited in a year-end art display. She taught me patience and perseverance. In college I was exposed to African Art which led me to explore and immerse myself in everything it had to offer. This had a profound lifelong influence on my work.

I am a passionate photographic artist, with an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts. I currently an active member on the Board of The Professional Photographers of Massachusetts (PPAM), currently President. I hold a Craftsman, and a certification degree, CR Photog, CPP, by PPA. I have the honor of serving as PPA Council member and Liaison for the CPP program for MA.

Kevin Huver

After being born and raised on a farm in rural southwestern Michigan. Kevin was taught the value of hard work and determination. Kevin discovered the film business in his early twenties and was persistent in pursuing a career as a camera assistant. It was not long until Kevin found himself in the home of entertainment, Los Angeles California, helping to run camera departments on multimillion-dollar productions. It was here where Kevin fell in love with visual storytelling and began working towards the goal of becoming a cinematographer. Kevin studied the way his bosses would light scenes and how they would visually craft the Story. He also found fascination with how the directors would interact with actors in order to get the performance needed for the story.

In late 2014, Kevin shifted his focus to photography. As he began his journey down the pathway to portrait photography, he started to once again utilize those lessons learned in the film business: shaping the light to craft powerful stories, using his voice, working diligently, and most importantly, connecting with his subjects. While Kevin strives to perfect his skills within the craft of professional photography, he wishes to share his understanding of utilizing images to start important conversations and inspire others to craft powerful stories through the art of photography.

Contact:

- Instagram - @khuv
- Facebook – <http://www.Facebook.com/khuvphoto/>
- Website – www.KevinHuver.com

Molly Isaacs

Mollie is a professional photographer specializing in nature and wildlife, abstracts, macro, and flowers. She runs "Awake The Light Photo Workshops and Tours," and leads educational and inspirational photo workshops across the country and around the world. She loves sharing her passion for photography with others.

Early in her career she studied with Ansel Adams and Joyce Tenneson. Her work is in the Permanent Collection of the International Photography Hall of Fame, and has been exhibited at Epcot Center in Disney World, and Grand Central



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Station in New York City. She is a 15-time winner of the Kodak Gallery Award, considered by some to be the “Oscar” of photography.

In addition to her other specialties, she is also a portrait photographer. She is honored to have photographed many famous faces including actress Meryl Streep, jazz musician Wynton Marsalis, and the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

She is a popular speaker at regional and national photography conferences and seminars. She is known for her easy-going yet informative teaching style, and enjoys sharing her techniques, creative ideas, and simple tricks of the trade.

She is active with the Professional Photographers of America (PPA), and is also a member of the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA).

She presents occasional Webinars and has authored a coffee table photography book, plus educational photography e-books. She lives at the Outer Banks of North Carolina on the Atlantic coast, and enjoys all things beachy.

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/Awake-The-Light-123508281034128/>

BLOG: <http://awakethelight.blogspot.com>

Lori & Jerry Keefer

Husband & wife duo, Jerry & Lori, created their business, Keefer Photography, in 2015 with the purpose of telling stories and preserving history while making money to finance their love of making memories with their own family. Their strong family values and passion of preserving the stories for future generations has gained them recognition around the globe. Their love of storytelling and creating has been constant for both since childhood.

Jerry’s love of cars and his quest to create something that will preserve the history of all things automotive, combined with his professional photography and proprietary techniques developed over many years, allows him to create art that can intertwine the story of both car and collector in an heirloom to pass down to future generations. In essence, capturing the story and history that can withstand the life span of the automobile itself.

Lori uses her story-telling abilities to create personal and professional branding images for fellow entrepreneurs and business professionals. Using her love for story-telling and of helping fellow entrepreneurs elevate their brand, Lori developed her Story Sessions around her tagline “You Are Your Brand™.” These Story Sessions provide her clients with content images to use to grow their audience and elevate their brand.

As Jerry & Lori grew their business, they realized their need to serve and educate others. They created Keefer Education where they provide resources for both entrepreneurs and photographers throughout webinars, videos and workshops on topics ranging from branding yourself to increasing sales for the photographer.

When they are not photographing, Jerry & Lori enjoy spending time with their family and traveling. Jerry is a big kid at heart and enjoys driving his Hot Wheels Camaro to car shows. He is on the Board of Directors for the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles where he helps enhance and improve the museum attendee experience, research and preservation of automotive history, and find ways to attract the younger generation to the rich history of the museum and its display contents. Lori is a proud band mom, devoted tea lover and her current passion project is helping her dad write his biography.

Don Komarechka

Don Komarechka is a nature and macro photographer located in Barrie, Ontario, Canada. From auroras to pollen, insects to infrared, much of Don’s photographic adventures reveal a deeper understanding of how the universe works. Exploring the world that we cannot see with our own eyes has been a common thread in Don’s career as a professional photographer. Always science-minded but never formally trained, Don uses photography as a way to explore and understand the world around him. Photographing something unusual or unknown is the perfect excuse to learn something new. Don’s work often pushes up against the technical limitations of modern camera equipment and the physical limitations of light itself.



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Lisa Langell

Lisa Langell is a full-time, award-winning photographer whose work has appeared in numerous prestigious publications, galleries and more. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the North American Nature Photography Association. She is also an ambassador for Tamron and FotoPro.

Whether it was working as a master floral designer, a licensed psychologist, a university instructor, an international consultant in K-12 education, the Chief Business Development Officer of an education technology company, a researcher, a writer, or an artist—she enjoyed meeting each challenge.

Still, her strongest calling was photography--ever since childhood--when bird watching ignited her lifelong love of nature and the camera. In 2010, she turned her passion for photography into a business—and in 2015 she transitioned to photography full-time and left the corporate and consulting world behind.

The journey with photography has definitely been Lisa's favorite – she loves combining her diverse background and skills into her photographic art and instruction. Bringing joy to others brings joy to her! She thrives on creating innovative learning experiences that enrich, invigorate and expand photographers' minds emotionally, creatively and intellectually!

David Marx

David Marx specializes in teaching landscape, travel, and night photography for glacierphotoguides.com. Over the past decade, David has taught workshops for the Rocky Mountain School of Photography, the American Society of Media Photographers, FirstLight Photography Workshops, and at the Viewfinder Center for Photography.

David is an Adobe Certified Expert in Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop. David's entertaining teaching style works well for photography students of all skill levels.

You can find David's ever-expanding Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop video tutorial library at focusphotoschool.com and follow him on Instagram or YouTube.

Mike Mueller

Mike has been an active photographer for many years. He is a member of the Frankenmuth Camera Club and Photographic Society of America. He has taught community education classes in photography and has lectured many times to various groups. He is past president of SWMCCC and held many other positions within the council, and SWMCCC made him Honorary for his service to the Council. He has earned acceptances and honors for his images at local, council and international levels. PSA has made him an Associate (APSA) for his service to the society.

Ed Post

Ed Post became a serious photographer 25 years ago after attending the first of several workshops with professional photographers John Gerlach and Rod Planck. Since that time, Ed has worked and studied to hone his skills in photography. He has concentrated mainly on landscape and nature photography and he frequently lectures on these topics as well as leading workshops and photo tours on them.

His work has been widely published and he has received honors and awards in contests and exhibitions.

Ed also presented at the Photographic Society of America (PSA) national conference in Yellowstone and Portland.

You can find some of Ed's work at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/edpost/>.

Chris Smith

Chris Smith is the founder of Out of Chicago Photography. Out of Chicago started in 2011 as Chris shared his images of our beautiful city. Chris used his knowledge from the blog to write "The Photographer's Guide to Chicago". Chris' vision has always been to connect passionate photographers with each other, which has led him to creating destination-oriented photography conferences each year. Chris still loves photographing the city as well as our country's National Parks using his 17+ years of teaching physics experience to inspire others to create amazing images. When he's not creating new content for Out of Chicago, you will find him hanging out with his wife and two kids or playing hockey. www.outofchicago.com.



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Robert Vanelli

Vanelli is a working sports and portrait photographer, educator, and author living in Florida. He has had the opportunity of capturing images of special VIPs, including the President of the United States, former president of Toyota / Nobel Peace Prize recipient Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, various martial arts legends and has shot for Inside Lacrosse Magazine.

After a successful career as a three-time, Triple Crown Karate champion, Vanelli turned his attention to teaching the visual arts. As an experienced educator, Vanelli has created videos for LinkedIn Learn, has written hundreds of articles, taught at major photography conferences and has developed many photography and digital workflow programs including Click for Kids.

Currently, he is the Director of Education at Skylum Software, teaching workshops, writing for Photofocus and creating tutorials for the Vanelli and Friends series.

You can find Vanelli's articles and video at <https://vanelli.studio/author>