

Bloomfield Messenger



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Priceless 16 pages

A VISUAL FEAST AT THE TREES FOR BLOOMFIELD 2024 PHOTO CONTEST RECEPTION



Photos: (top) The winners of the 2024 TFB photo contest. (left) Mayor Danielle Wong and Town Manager Alvin Schwapp show this year's poster of the winning entries. Photos by Mike Taylor

By Paula Jones
TFB Co-Chair

The TREES FOR BLOOMFIELD (TFB) Initiative announced the results of its 2024 Photo Contest at a reception on December 17 at the Alvin & Beatrice Wood Human Services Facility.

The objective of TFB is to improve Bloomfield's tree

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canopy and promote awareness of all the benefits that trees provide. We look for different ways for the community to participate, and a Photo Contest focused on Bloomfield's trees is one such way. It's become a tradition to end the year on a high note together by enjoying beautiful photographs of trees from our community.

About seventy people turned out to enjoy light refreshments and a short program honoring this year's 32 photo contest participants (a new high!) and 13 winners. Mayor Danielle Wong announced the winners and Town Manager Alvin Schwapp offered his congratulations to all. As a prize, each photographer will receive a set of note cards with their winning image.

The 13 photographs currently are on display at 330 Park

Photo: Members of the Trees for Bloomfield Initiative.

Photo by Mike Taylor

and a link to the slide show of all 54 entries will soon be available on the Town website: <https://www.bloomfieldct.gov/830/Trees-For-Bloomfield-Photo-Contest>

The photographs will remain on display for an extended period. Stop by the exhibit and enjoy a visual tree-tour of Bloomfield, courtesy of your talented neighbors! Watch for the January 3, 2025 edition of the Bloomfield Messenger for a special Photo section of the winning photographs.

The TREES FOR BLOOMFIELD Initiative gratefully acknowledges these accomplished neighbors who cheerfully contributed their expertise and time to help make the TFB 2024 PHOTO CONTEST a

success:

Contest judge Robin Sherwood has been a Bloomfield resident for 35 years. Her love of photography came from two of her favorite teachers - an uncle whose work has been exhibited at the Beaubourg in Paris and her father who taught her how to develop black & white photos in his makeshift basement studio. Post college she worked for a commercial printer and ad agency before opening a boutique graphic design service in 1994. Currently, she serves as vice-chair of the Bloomfield Public Art Commission and is President of Ironwood Community Partners Board of Directors. Robin is also enjoying quasi-retirement as a free-

lance designer, amateur landscape photographer and urban explorer.

Contest judge Barbara Steele has been a Bloomfield resident for 33 years. She is an artist who creates in multiple mediums including photography, painting, drawing, fiber, and mixed-media collage and has displayed her work at the West Hartford Art League, Farmington Valley Art Center, Windsor Art Center, the Investment Center in Avon, the Duncaster Gallery, the Filley House, and the Simsbury Library. She has served as judge for numerous photography competitions over the past 18 years and she has won many ribbons for her photography.

David Royce once again generously donated his time and all materials to mount and mat the 13 winning photographs. David is a professional photographer and picture framer who is a long-time member of the Simsbury Camera Club. He is the primary photographer and picture framer for the Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield, as well as the Parish's webmaster and Communication Coordinator.

We'd like to acknowledge these **Town Departments** for all the support they provide TFB - in hosting the Photo Contest and other receptions, planting trees, handling registration for programs, and publicizing our projects: Department of Public Works; Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services; Senior Services; and Strategic Communications and Government Affairs.

About the Contest:

Photographers could submit two entries, selecting from four categories: Landscape, Portrait, Creative, and Close-up. The prime requirement was that the tree or trees pictured be located in Bloomfield. The judges chose 13 winning photographs from the 54 submitted.

Winners:

Vincent Bygrave's
"Morning Reflection"
(Landscape)
Ian Clark's
"Naked Shagbark Hickory in Winter Sunset" (Portrait);
Ann Drahos'
"Crazy Hair" (Close-up);
Kevin Gough's
"Mighty Black Birch" (Portrait)

Danielle Morander's
"Holding On" (Close-up)

Cathy A. Pepin's
"Continuous Life" (Portrait)

Catherine L. Pepin's
"Kaleidoscope of Color" (Close-up)

Benjamin Skaught's
"Winter Paths" (Landscape)

Barbara Vita's
"Winter Wonderland" (Landscape)

Susan White's
"Triumvirate Strength" (Portrait)

Sela Whyte's
"Yellow Fellow" (Portrait)

Denese Wilks'
"Bumpy in Bloomfield" (Creative/Close-up)

and

Carolee Ziegenhagen's
"Moon Over Seabury Meadow" (Landscape).