

Above, Aboard, and Beyond: Unique Perspectives by Rail

An online program by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art

November 13, 2021



CRP&A | CENTER FOR RAILROAD
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

1930 Monroe Street, Suite 301, Madison, Wisconsin, 53711
608-251-5785 | info@railphoto-art.org | www.railphoto-art.org

Contents

Schedule3

Presenters4

Images from Presenters6

CRP&A Railroad Heritage Visual Archive.....8

Traveling Exhibitions.....9

The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology.....10

Online Programming.....11

John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program.....12

Directors, Officers & Staff13

About the Center15

Join the Center, Legacy Society.....16

Front Cover:
Stacey Evans
Morning Mist, Indiana, 7:15:46 AM,
Summer 2012, Capitol Limited

Visit www.railphoto-art.org for
news, to browse our collections,
and to find social media links:

- Facebook [@railphotoart](#)
- Flickr [@railphotoart](#)
- Instagram [@railphotoart](#)
- Twitter [@railphotoart](#)
- YouTube [@railphotoart](#)

Schedule

Saturday, November 13

Live sessions on Zoom Webinar (all times are U.S. Central)

10:30 A.M. *Zoom meeting opens*

11:00 A.M. **Welcome and Introduction**, Scott Lothes

11:15 A.M. **CRP&A Collections Update**, Adrienne Evans

11:30 A.M. **Finding My Track**, Jen Al-Beik

12:15 A.M. *Break*

12:30 P.M. **Passengers**, Stacey Evans

1:15 P.M. **Selections from the John Gruber Collection**, Scott Lothes

2:00 P.M. *Conclusion*

Presenters

Finding My Track, 11:30 A.M.

Jennifer AL-BEIK

Jennifer Al-Beik shares perspectives as a newcomer to the hobby of railroad photography.

Al-Beik is a veterinarian by trade and took up a passion for railroad photography after her son became interested in railroads. As a newcomer to the hobby, Jen now enjoys rail photography as a creative outlet and takes images from both the ground and from the air by drone.



Passengers, 12:30 P.M.

Stacey EVANS

Glimpse the American landscape from the seat of Amtrak passenger Stacey Evans. Using the train as a moving studio tethered to the earth gliding on a predetermined path, Stacey makes photographs focused on regional similarities and differences while composing how we occupy, shape, and transform the land. Her archive has over 29 train trips in America, plus a few in Scandinavia and France. Over the years, she's collected various themes ranging from swimming pools, to power supplies, agriculture, intersections, and fading light, to name a few. She will share her unique perspective not accessible by foot, plane, or car.

Evans grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, a small town made diverse by its variety and combination of different landscapes – rural, urban, industrial and suburban. Over the years, she has worked to translate her formative visual experiences and demonstrate the role landscapes play within culture. She studied photography at Virginia Commonwealth University and received a BFA in photography from the Savannah College of Art and Design. She works as an artist, educator, and photographer. She is the Imaging Specialist and Project Coordinator at the University of Virginia Library, a Statewide Educator at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and a resident artist at the McGuffey Art Center in Charlottesville. Her artwork is exhibited regionally and nationally.



Selections from the John Gruber Collection, 1:15 P.M.

Scott LOTHES

Scott Lothes, the executive director and president of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, will share selections and highlights from the illustrious collection of our co-founder John Gruber (1936-2018). John was not only a great rail photographer, but also an author, scholar, grandfather, and staunch champion of other artists as well as the field of railroad photography itself. We have the privileged opportunity to preserve and provide access to his legacy. John's collection contains over 108,000 images as well as boxes of manuscript materials related to his publishing projects and the founding of the Center. Digitization of John's collection began in 2020.

Scott became the Center's full-time executive director in 2011, after serving on its staff part-time since 2008. In 2013 he succeeded John Gruber as president and editor of the Center's journal, *Railroad Heritage*. Fascinated by railroads from birth, Lothes grew up watching coal trains in West Virginia. He took up photography while attending college at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was graduated magna cum laude in 2002 with a degree in mechanical engineering. To date more than 600 of his photographs have appeared in print along with seventy bylined articles in magazines including *Trains*, *Classic Trains*, *Railfan & Railroad*, and *Railroads Illustrated*, as well as two front-page travel stories in the *Sunday Oregonian*, Portland, Oregon's leading newspaper. He is the author and editor of *The Railroad Photography of Donald W. Furler*, coauthor of *Wallace W. Abbey: A Life in Railroad Photography*, and contributor of forewords and chapters to four other books. Lothes won the *Trains* and Canon photography contest in 2003, tied for first place in the Center's 2006 Creative Photography Awards Program, and in 2008 staff at *Trains* selected one of his photos for inclusion in its "100 Greatest Railroad Photos" special issue. He presented at the Center's 2008, 2018, and 2020 conferences, and he has made numerous multimedia presentations at Winterail, Summerail, and the other railroad and travel photography shows. Prior to joining the Center, Lothes spent three years as assistant editor of the engineering magazine *Sound & Vibration* in Bay Village, Ohio, and one year as an English teacher at a high school in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. He has also lived in Oregon and traveled extensively in Vietnam, China, and central Europe. Since moving to Wisconsin in 2011, he has undertaken a project to document the railroads of the Upper Mississippi River Valley, where he enjoys hiking and camping with his wife, Maureen Muldoon, and their dog, Maddie.



Images from Conference Presenters



Above: Basic City, Virginia, 2:44:54PM, Summer 2009, *Cardinal Route*. Stacey Evans

Below: CSX Q022 on the Boston & Albany line in Spencer, Massachusetts, on October 31, 2020. Jennifer Al-Beik



North Shore Line conductor E.A. Salter interacts with an unidentified boy at the terminal in downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in May of 1962.

CRP&A Railroad Heritage Visual Archive



A BNSF Railway northbound passes Union Pacific Railroad locomotive no. 6760 entering Caballo loadout spur in Gillette, Wyoming, in August 2005. Photograph by J. Parker Lamb, collection of the Center, Lamb-03-043-12

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art's Railroad Heritage Visual Archive encompasses fifty-four discrete collections which contain approximately 460,000 images created between the 1880s and the present. International in scope, our collections depict railroad equipment, operations, passengers, laborers, and environments in more than twenty-five countries. While we do collect 2D visual materials in various mediums, photographic images make up the bulk of our holdings. Artists represented in our collections include both talented hobbyists and vernacular photographers as well as celebrated luminaries of the field. Collectively, the scope of their work extends beyond the controlled views offered by the railroad industry to present a holistic and compelling story of a technology that's central to historical narratives across the globe. Furthermore, over the course of the twentieth century, railroad enthusiasts have formed

a community, centered on photography, with its own distinct publications, lingo, and visual culture. Our collections document the development of this subculture throughout the last 100 years.

Archival work on the collections occurs daily in the CRP&A's offices in Madison, Wisconsin. Archivist Adrienne Evans heads a collections team of seven, which includes graduate student interns from the University of Wisconsin-Madison as well as contract archivists and collections assistants. The CRP&A frequently adds new accessions to our permanent collections. All potential donations are reviewed and approved by the Center's Board of Directors before they are added to the archive. You can learn more about our donations process as well as our Collection Management Policy on our website: railphoto-art.org/collections/

Traveling Exhibitions



After Promontory at the Winslow Arts Trust in Winslow, Arizona. Photograph by Daniel Lutzick

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art creates partnerships with photographers and museums to bring multiple forms of beautiful and significant railroad art to venues across the country. Stemming from a core focus to preserve and present significant images of railroading, our traveling exhibitions include both solo and group shows that span the history of railroading in the United States and beyond.

Several of our shows have continued to tour the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. Current venues may have limited hours, and we encourage those planning to visit to get in touch with each location and review their safety policies and protocols. Please also know that all dates are subject to change. Learn more about our traveling exhibitions on our website: railphoto-art.org/exhibits/

Current

After Promontory: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Transcontinental Railroading, Winslow, Arizona: Winslow Arts Trust, January 22, 2021 to January 23, 2022

The Railroad and the Art of Place: Photographs by David Kahler, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Grohmann Museum, September 10 to December 19, 2021

Railroaders: Jack Delano's Homefront Photography, Peoria, Illinois: Peoria Riverfront Museum, October 9, 2021 to January 2, 2022

Steam—An Enduring Legacy: The Railroad Photographs of Joel Jensen, Evanston, Wyoming: Evanston Roundhouse, June 15, 2021 till further notice

Upcoming

Beebe & Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy

- Collierville, Tennessee: The Morton Museum of Collierville History, February 21 to June 1, 2022
- Golden, Colorado: Colorado Railroad Museum, January to December 2023

Milwaukee's Beer Line, Green Bay, Wisconsin: National Railroad Museum, January 28, 2022 to January 1, 2023

Wallace W. Abbey: A Life in Railroad Photography, Naples, Florida: Naples Depot Museum, May 12 to August 12, 2022

The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology



THE RAILROAD AND THE ART OF PLACE AN ANTHOLOGY

In *The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology*, a team of thirty contemporary and historical photographers—whose work is displayed across eighteen portfolios—visually contemplate the visible and philosophical imprint of the railroad on the American landscape. Combined with lucid, literary essays by Kevin P. Keefe, former editor of *Trains* magazine; noted transportation historian Alexander B. Craghead; industrial historian Matt Kierstead; and the late Michael Flanagan (author of *Stations: An Imaginary Journey*), the book, conceived by David Kahler, is sure to set a new benchmark in the field of railroad photography and transportation studies.

Produced to the highest standards and featuring 230 color and black-and-white photographs, this deluxe 372-page book is printed on heavy stock and portrays a storied industrial culture in an entirely new context. *Generously funded by the Kahler Family Charitable Fund.*

\$60 plus \$5 for domestic shipping, hardcover, 11×11 inches, 372 pages, 230 photographs

Order now at: railphoto-art.org/anthology-book/

International shipping is available; please inquire by email at info@railphoto-art.org

Online Programming



A pair of brand-new Monon F3A diesel locomotives on display at Michigan City, Indiana, on January 10, 1947. Photograph by Perry Frank Johnson, collection of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art

Since Spring 2020 the CRP&A has planned and presented a wide variety of online programming to bring more content to our membership and to reach new audiences. All past programs are available for viewing on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/railphotoart. Keep up-to-date with all of our programming via our website, email blasts, and social media channels.

List of Recent Past Programs

- [Railroaders: Jack Delano's Homefront Photography, presented by Bon French](#)
- [The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology, panel discussion](#)
- [Amtrak's Evolving Image](#)
- [The Sun Always Sets in the East and West, Yoichi Uzeki](#)
- [Hoosier Lifelines: Social and Environmental Change Along the Monon, 1847-2020](#)
- [Of Light, Landscape and the Echo of Trains, presented by Todd Halamka](#)
- [Beebe and Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy, presented by Mel Patrick and John Ryan](#)
- [The Art of Dining on Rails, presented by Jay W. Christopher and Anne Lapinski](#)
- [The Iron Road to the Deep North: Japanese Railways of Hokkaido, Then and Now, presented by Scott Lothes](#)
- [Wallace W. Abbey: A Life in Railroad Photography, presented by Kevin Keefe and Scott Lothes](#)
- [The Railroad and the Art of Place, presented by David Kahler](#)

Weather Effects: 2022 John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program



Predawn Pikes Peak State Park, Iowa 2017. Photograph by Todd Halamka

The 2022 John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program theme is *Weather Effects*. When one takes a moment to think about what it takes to run a railroad anywhere in the world, chances are in one form or another, weather influences nearly every aspect of the enterprise. The theme may be taken literally, figuratively and/or metaphorically.

Participants are welcome to submit up to three images in either color and/or black and white format. Digital and film images are acceptable. However, film images should be submitted as scans in JPG format with one side of the image at least 1500 pixels. Digital manipulation of the images is acceptable but not required.

Submission deadline: May 1, 2022

Awards notification: August 1, 2022

Applicants must submit:

- Up to three images, must include location, date, and basic caption information
- Name, mailing address, email address, phone number

Electronic submissions only. No watermarks. Files can be sent via email, Dropbox, WeTransfer, etc.

The Center reserves the right to retain electronic copies for future publication, use on our website, Facebook and other social media, or for public exhibition. In all cases, the photographer retains copyright to the image.

Prizes

First place, \$750

Second place, \$500

Third place, \$250

Judges Also Liked, one-year subscription to *Railroad Heritage*

About the Program

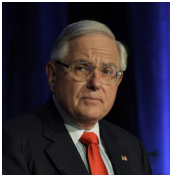
The John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program is devoted exclusively to contemporary railroad photography and attracts hundreds of entrants annually from North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

John Gruber was a photography and preservation activist in the railroad community from 1960 to 2018. His own photography was published widely, especially in *Trains* magazine. In 1994, the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society presented Gruber with its Fred A. and Jane R. Stindt Photography Award. From 1995 to 1999, Gruber edited *Vintage Rails*. In 1997 his intense interest in both photography and preservation, and his concern about the welfare and longevity of amateur and professional photographers' work, led him to organize the founding of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art.

Learn more: railphoto-art.org/awards/weather-effects/
Please send all submissions to award@railphoto-art.org

Disclaimer: Trespassing along railroad rights-of-way is illegal and the leading cause of rail-related deaths in the United States. The CRP&A discourages trespassing for this contest and retains the right to disqualify any photographs deemed dangerous in content.

Directors, Officers, and Staff



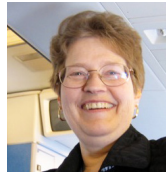
Ronald L. Batory, Santa Fe, New Mexico, just retired as the administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration. His prior career spanned forty-five years in the railroad industry as president of The Belt Railway Company of Chicago and president and chief operating officer of Conrail.



Todd Halamka, Western Springs, Illinois, is a practicing architect and founder of Todd Halamka + Partners in downtown Chicago. His focus on railroad photography began in 2011, combining his lifelong love of trains and the outdoors with his fascination for image making.



Jeff Brouws, Stanfordville, New York, brings the Center knowledge of nineteenth and twentieth century photography and a broad background in publishing, with seven photography books to his credit. His photographs can be found in numerous public and private collections.



Nona Hill (Treasurer), Madison, Wisconsin, and Clark Johnson, her husband, managed High Iron Travel, operator of the *Caritas*, the most widely traveled private car in America. She helps lead multiple passenger rail advocacy groups in Wisconsin.



Norman Carlson, Lake Forest, Illinois, spent thirty-four years with Arthur Anderson where he led the transportation industry practice for eleven years. He is president of the Shore Line Interurban Historical Society and managing editor of its publication *First & Fastest*.



David Kahler (Vice-Chair), Pittsboro, North Carolina, practiced architecture for more than thirty years and has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He is active as a consultant and advisor, and he authored *The Railroad and the Art of Place*.



Adrienne Evans (Archivist), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from UW-Madison's School of Library Information Studies in 2014. She worked at History Colorado for two years before coming to the Center in 2017.



Kevin P. Keefe, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recently retired as vice-president-editorial for Kalmbach Publishing Co. He served as editor of *Trains* from 1992 to 2000. As a student at Michigan State, he worked on Pere Marquette steam locomotive no. 1225, and he later authored a book about it.



Betsy Fahlman, Tempe, Arizona, is a professor of art history at Arizona State University. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware and specializes in American Art, with interests in public art, American modernism, the New Deal and industrial archaeology.



Natalie Krecek (Archives Assistant), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center in 2018 as an intern and was promoted to archives assistant in 2019. She received a BA degree in anthropology from North Central College in 2017. Her past work experience includes an internship at Chicago's Field Museum.



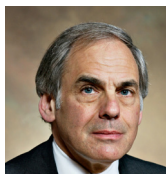
Justin Franz, Columbia Falls, Montana, has a degree from the University of Montana's School of Journalism, and is the associate editor of *Railfan & Railroad* magazine. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Atlas Obscura*, and many more.



Scott Lothes (President and Executive Director), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center's staff in 2008. He has authored or coauthored seven books while contributing articles and photographs to numerous magazines. He also edits the Center's journal, *Railroad Heritage*.



T. Bondurant French (Chair), Glen Ellyn, Illinois, is the executive chairman of Adams Street Partners, one of the largest and oldest managers of private equity investment in the world. A lifelong rail enthusiast, Bon has photographed some 700 different railroads.



Albert O. Louer, Williamsburg, Virginia, recently retired as Director of Principal Gifts at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He worked in museums for fifty years and has research and collecting interests in the Pullman Co. and Midwestern railroads.



H. Roger Grant, Clemson, South Carolina, is a professor of history at Clemson and an active writer of railroad history. His dozens of books include company histories of several railroads. He is a native of Albia, Iowa, and previously taught at the University of Akron.



Elrond Lawrence (Acquisitions Coordinator), Salinas, California, joined the Center's team in the part-time role of acquisitions coordinator in 2021. His primary function is to work with collections donors to ensure the smooth transfer of their materials into the Center's Archive.



Peter Mosse, New York, New York, grew up in England and moved to the U.S. in 1977 to set up a precious metals trading subsidiary for the UK Rothschild banking group. He began collecting railroad paintings in 1980 and now owns more than 150 original works.



Hailey Paige (Exhibitions and Event Coordinator), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University in Historical Administration in 2017. She has held several positions in the museum field before coming to the Center in 2017.



Erin Rose (Reference Archivist), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center for Railroad Photography & Art in 2017 for a few months as an intern, and she returned in 2021 in the new role of reference archivist. She handles image requests, collections processing, and any other projects asked of her.



Michael P. Schmidt (Secretary), Owosso, Michigan, is an orthopedic surgeon and a collector of railroad photographs and paintings. He is Vice Chief of Staff, Chief of Surgery, and serves on the board of trustees of his hospital.



Heather Sonntag (Associate Archivist), Madison, Wisconsin, is currently processing the Ron Hill Collection. She holds a doctorate in cultural history and a masters of library and information science from UW-Madison, and she also works as an assistant archivist of visual materials at the Wisconsin Historical Society.



Richard Tower, San Francisco, California, has spent much of his career in the railroad industry with Southern Pacific and Amtrak, and as a consultant. With his wife Caroline, he manages the Candelaria Fund, which supports many community organizations.



Inga Velten (Development Director), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center in 2017 and has twenty years of experience in nonprofit fundraising and administration, with expertise in data management, prospect research, and major gift fundraising.

About the Center

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art is a national nonprofit arts and education organization founded in 1997 and based in Madison, Wisconsin. As its mission the Center preserves and presents significant images of railroading, interpreting them in publications, exhibitions, and on the Internet.

Efforts to preserve railroad artwork and photographs have led to the Center's amassing an archive of more than 460,000 images, including the complete works of several well-known photographers. Full processing of these collections includes housing them in archival-safe storage materials and digitizing the images as well as their captions, or metadata. The Center is actively adding to its archive and conducts these preservation activities in house.

The Center also collaborates with partners across the country on its presentation work. Foremost is *After Promontory*, an exhibition developed for the sesquicentennial of the first transcontinental railroad completed in 1869. A photography exhibition featuring images from the 1860s to the present, the show examines the significance and lasting impact of the transcontinental railroads on the American West. The exhibition has already been featured at eleven venues.

The Center prepares other traveling exhibitions about railroad workers and individual photographers and artists such as David Plowden and Ted Rose. Venues have included Grand Central Terminal, the California State Railroad Museum, and the Chicago History Museum. The Center has brought twenty unique exhibitions of railroad photography and art to more than 100 venues throughout the country.

Publication of *Railroad Heritage*, the Center's journal, occurs quarterly. Each issue features work by historic and contemporary photographers and artists plus news of the field. Special issues have honored workers, women in railroading, and individual photographers, and have concisely explained railroad history and preservation. The Center also publishes books featuring photographers in its archive and in conjunction with traveling exhibitions and other projects.

Each year going back to 2003, the Center has hosted a conference at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois. Though we departed from tradition in 2020 and 2021 due to unprecedented circumstances, Virtual Conversations continues to provide a forum for veteran and young photographers alike—as well as artists, historians, editors, and railroaders—to mingle both socially and formally, present and discuss their work, and address photographic and artistic issues. The Center launched a new series of regional conferences in 2016; our meeting in 2019 featured a transcontinental theme at the Brigham Young University Museum of Art on March 29-30.

The annual John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program recognizes recent work by railroad photographers in the United States and abroad. The program is named for the Center's principal founder, John Gruber.

Visit www.railphoto-art.org to learn more about the Center, browse images from our archives, and find links to other online platforms at Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Instagram, and YouTube. Follow them to stay informed of current events and trends in railroad photography and art as well as the Center's research and acquisitions.

Join the Center

We are a membership organization, open to all. Your support makes our work possible.

Membership benefits

- Discounted prices at our annual conference and other events
- Subscription to our quarterly journal, *Railroad Heritage*®

All gifts are acknowledged and tax-deductible to the fullest extent provided. Unless you indicate otherwise, your gifts for the year will be recognized publicly by category in the following year's spring issue of *Railroad Heritage*.

With Gratitude

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art gratefully acknowledges the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust as underwriter of our fundraising and endowment campaign.

Learn more about joining here:

railphoto-art.org/support/

Legacy Society

We are grateful to everyone who supports our mission to preserve, present, and sustain the visual culture of railroading that inspires our community. It is a special honor for us to know that some of you have chosen to include the Center in your long-term charitable gift plans.

Future gifts planned today provide for sustainable funding for all the Center for Railroad Photography & Art's programming, while costing nothing during an individual lifetime. And, making a gift through a will or estate plan is easy, flexible, and impactful.

To have a confidential conversation about planned giving options and recognition through the Center's Legacy society, reach out to Inga Velten, development director, inga@railphoto-art.org, 608-251-5785, ext. 102. Or, simply share the sample language in the box (right) with your advisor the next time you update your plans.



Conductor Tom Burke smiles as he helps passengers climb aboard the last Milwaukee Road passenger train out of the Madison, Wisconsin depot on April 30, 1971. Photograph by John Gruber

Sample bequest language

I commit ____% and / or \$_____ of my estate to the Center for Railroad Photography & Art Endowment (EIN 47-7373395), 1930 Monroe Street, Ste. 301, Madison, Wisconsin, 53711, to provide funding for _____ at the Center or the program(s) most in need as determined by the administration of the Center and its board of directors, and by the trustees of the Center's endowment fund.