

CONVERSATIONS 2022

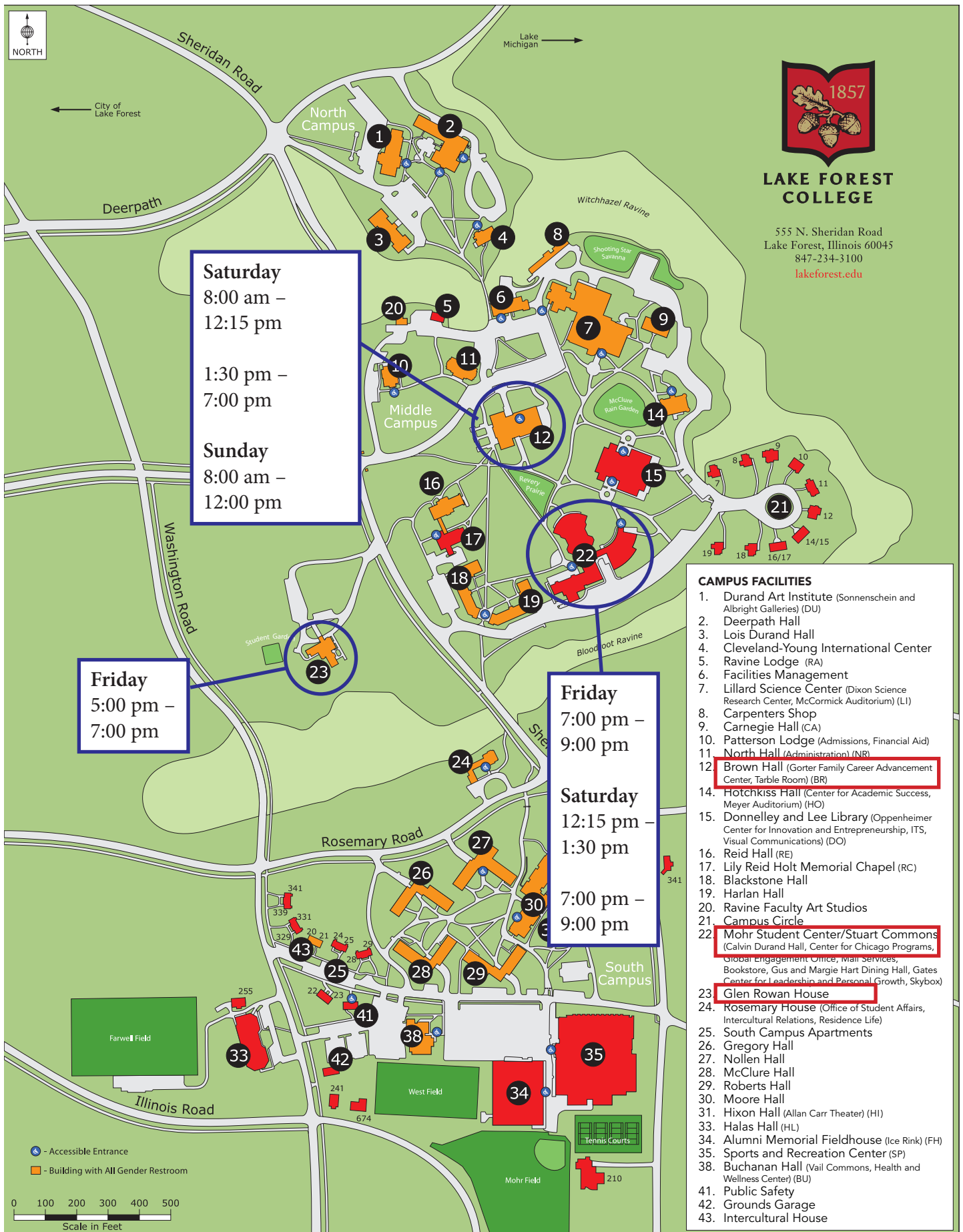
The Center for Railroad Photography & Art's Annual Conference
On the campus of co-host Lake Forest College
April 8–10, 2022



CRP&A | CENTER FOR RAILROAD
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

1930 Monroe Street, Suite 301, Madison, Wisconsin, 53711
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Campus Map



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Conference Patrons

Rick Ahern, Bob Alkire, John Atherton, Linda Corder, Paul Enenbach, Tim Franz, Bon French, Todd Halamka, Oren Helbok, Sharon Hill & Leo Weibel, Marc Hilton, David Kahler, John Kirchner, Al Louer, David Ludgin, Edward Magiera, Rick Malo, Jeff Mast, David Mattoon, Gregory Molloy, Steve Mueller, Kenneth Rehor, David Saums, Michael Schmidt, Don Stark, Thomas Szczesniak, Thomas Taylor, Richard Tower

Conference Volunteers

Lewis Ableidinger, Steve Barry, Bryan Bechtold, Jeff Brouws, Wayne Depperman, Alexander Craghead, Betsy Fahlman, Justin Franz, Bon French, Ronald Goldfeder, Todd Halamka, Oren Helbok, Nona Hill, Marc Hilton, George Hiotis, Drake Hokanson, David Kahler, Kevin Keefe, Al Louer, Rick Malo, Jeff Mast, Dee Matyas, Peter Mosse, Mike Raia, Kenneth Rehor, Kevin Scanlon, Michael Schmidt, Kevin Tomasic, Richard Tower, Eric Williams, August VanCleave, Otto Vondrak, Tom Vorel, Charlie Voyda

Front Cover: MTA no. 4513 pauses at the station in Hoboken, New Jersey, on April 24, 2019. Photograph by Dennis Livesey.

Back Cover: Rock Island E8 643 leads the inbound Quad Cities Rocket to Chicago through Oak Forest, Illinois. The image was taken by Bill Raia on May 5, 1973, and is from the presentation by Mike Raia.

Music of Erik Shicotte

Erik Shicotte

erikshicotte.com

Rising country music star and rail photographer Erik Schicotte will perform following the banquet dinner on Friday, April 8 in Calvin Durand Hall.

Like Johnny Cash, Erik Shicotte has been everywhere, and like Cash and Merle Haggard, the Midwestern singer-songwriter sings with humor and pathos about trains, trucks, and the hardworking heroes who hang out on the highways, rails, and honky-tonks. Shicotte's new album *Miss'ry Pacific* rides along a rambling, rolling country vibe that twists and turns like the many roads he's traveled since he started writing the album. The album was "slapped together like the far flung cars of a freight train," says Shicotte. "The pandemic made it impossible to get everyone in the same room, but we made it work by communicating virtually, recording different parts in different cities, and staying committed to piecing it all together." Shicotte's rich baritone vocals wrench emotions from his listener's hearts. Like Luke Combs and Chris Stapleton, he writes songs that carry us back to times in our lives when certain events moved us deeply. "I write so people can feel it," Shicotte says. "The songs on this album take me back to the moments when I wrote them, and my intent is that they can take the listener someplace that means something too."

A Wisconsin native, Shicotte grew up in the Milwaukee area, where he was raised on Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash, and Fleetwood Mac. "Oddly enough, Nascar '99 for Playstation One was the vehicle that brought me to learn guitar. The title track was 'Scuttle Buttin' by Stevie Ray Vaughn, and it made me want to play the blues," recalls Shicotte. He got his first guitar in eighth grade and took some lessons. He learned a few chords and then started messing around on his own. He started listening to everybody from Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters to Buddy Guy and the Allman Brothers. He played in bands in high school, doing mostly cover songs, but after graduating he focused on writing his own music.

Shicotte writes from his own experience and often in a tongue-and-cheek style. "I take a lot of pride in keeping genuine to my own damn humor and existence. I myself can't write anything I don't know, see, feel, or believe in. I draw from my experiences and imagination within interpretation." An ironworker, Shicotte travels around the country building fire training towers. He carries his guitar with him everywhere, slinging iron by day and spending his nights in hotel rooms writing country songs. In the tradition of Cash, Jennings, Townes Van Zandt, and Steve Earle, Shicotte pours his heart into songs of the forlorn tracts of railroad, rust, and the lonesome whine of the highway.

The Friday banquet is an additional cost and the only way to see Erik Shicotte perform live.

*** Erik will be interviewed by CRP&A board member Justin Franz as a part of the conference program on Saturday.**



© Erik Shicotte

Schedule

Friday

Glen Rowan House, no. 23 on campus map

5:00 P.M. *Doors open, Reception*
Exhibition featuring works from *The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology* and *Continuity & Change* on display
Book and raffle sales in the library

Move to Calvin Durand Hall, Mohr Student Center, no. 22 on campus map

7:00 P.M. Dinner (additional purchase, [blue](#) sticker on nametag)
7:45 P.M. Opening remarks and raffle drawing
8:00 P.M. Music by Erik Shicotte
9:00 P.M. Conclusion

Saturday

Brown Hall, Tarble Room, no. 12 on campus map

8:00 A.M. *Doors open, Pastries and drinks available, Lobby*
Presentation of photographs by conference attendees on repeat
9:00 A.M. Welcome, Scott Lothes, Center for Railroad Photography & Art, *Tarble Room*
9:30 A.M. * **Kevin Keefe, *Gene Huddleston and the C&O - 1947 to 1959***
10:15 A.M. Break, *Lobby*
10:45 A.M. **Docents: *August VanCleave and Charlie Voyda***
11:15 A.M. **Lee Alban, *It's My Way or the Railway***

12:15 P.M. Lunch, *Calvin Durand Hall, Mohr Student Center, no. 22 on campus map*

1:30 P.M. Bon French, Scott Lothes, and Al Louer, *Updates on the Center*
2:00 P.M. **Kevin Keefe, *The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology***
Scott Lothes, *Continuity and Change: The Lure of North American Railroads*
3:00 P.M. Break, *Lobby*
3:30 P.M. **Mark Llanuza, *Abandoned Railroads in the Midwest: Before and After***
4:15 P.M. * **Erik Shicotte: *Interview by Justin Franz***
4:45 P.M. Concluding remarks and raffle drawing

5:00 P.M. Reception, *Brown Hall lobby and patio (weather permitting)*
Book sales

Move to Calvin Durand Hall, Mohr Student Center, no. 22 on campus map

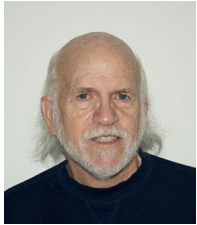
7:00 P.M. Dinner (additional purchase, [red](#) sticker on nametag)

Sunday

Brown Hall, no. 12 on campus map

8:00 A.M. Doors open, pastries and drinks available, *Lobby*
9:00 A.M. **CRP&A Collection Updates: *Adrienne Evans, Natalie Krecek, Elrond Lawrence, Erin Rose, and Heather Sonntag***
10:00 A.M. Break, *Lobby*
10:30 A.M. **Mike Raia, *Chicagoland Photography Selections from the Raia Collection***
11:15 A.M. **Dennis Livesey, *10,000 and Beyond: Pictures on a Path***
12:00 P.M. Conclusion (*Lunch on your own; there are many restaurants in downtown Lake Forest*)

Presenters



Lee ALBAN, Havre de Grace, Maryland

It's My Way or the Railway, Saturday, 11:15 A.M.

Alban will take you on a journey from inside the studio to galleries and travels throughout the United States and Europe, exploring various subject matter in still life, portraiture, and landscape. He has had a life-long interest in art, but he received degrees in biology and followed a career science teaching path until retiring at age fifty-two. In 2011, he began photographing and painting railway scenes featuring the age of steam.



Adrienne EVANS, Madison, Wisconsin

CRP&A Collection Updates, Sunday, 9:00 A.M.

Evans leads the collections team at the Center. She 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, and has previous archives experience with Wisconsin Historical Society, Montana State Historical Records Advisory Board and the Image Permanence Institute.



Kevin KEEFE,* Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Gene Huddleston and the C&O - 1947 to 1959, Saturday, 9:30 A.M.

The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology, Saturday, 2:00 P.M.

Keefe is a contributor to the Center's recent publication *The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology*. He 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. * *Keefe will be delivering Karen Parker's presentation, who is unable to attend.*



Natalie KRECEK, Madison, Wisconsin

CRP&A Collection Updates, Sunday, 9:00 A.M.

Krecek 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.



Elrond LAWRENCE, Salinas, California

CRP&A Collection Updates, Sunday, 9:00 A.M.

Lawrence's newly expanded role at the Center is acquisitions and marketing coordinator. He divides his time between: working with collection donors to ensure the smooth transfer of their materials into the Center's archive, and establishing a marketing communications program to reach new audiences. His stories and photography have appeared in *Trains*, *Railfan*, *Railroad Heritage*, and other rail publications and he authored the book *Route 66 Railway*. He lives along California's central coast with his love Laura, two cats, and a searchlight signal.



Dennis LIVESEY, New York City, New York

10,000 and Beyond: Pictures on a Path, Sunday, 11:15 A.M.

Livesey will share a retrospective on his many years of photographing trains. He has been passionate about railroads, photography, and life since the Eisenhower administration. That life has given him the chance to see, photograph, work on amazing trains here and abroad, to work on movies with some of the greatest talents in Hollywood, and to share that life with amazing friends, his fantastic children, and the love of his life, Mel. It has been a wonderful life and he sees no end in sight.

Mark LLANUZA, Bartlett, Illinois

Abandoned Railroads in the Midwest: Before and After, Saturday, 3:30 P.M.

Llanuza looks back at more than five decades of railroading at busy main lines and train stations since 1970. With the advent of Conrail and countless mergers since, once-busy branch lines were abandoned and eventually turned into bike paths. Throughout his many years of photography, Mark has been able to document the history of the railroads and towns he has visited. He works for Metra in the mechanical department and as their part-time company photographer.



Scott LOTHES, Madison, Wisconsin

Continuity and Change: The Lure of North American Railroads, Saturday, 2:00 P.M.

Lothes became the Center's full-time executive director in 2011 and has edited its journal, *Railroad Heritage*, since 2013. He has helped the Center expand its publication efforts, serving as author and editor of *The Railroad Photography of Donald W. Furler* and co-author of *Wallace W. Abbey: A Life in Railroad Photography*. He co-edited *Continuity & Change: The Lure of North American Railroads*, with Alexander Benjamin Craghead. Lothes has contributed forewords and chapters to four other books, and his work appears frequently in magazines and other publications.



Mike RAI, Chicago, Illinois

Chicagoland Photography Selections from the Raia Collection, Sunday, 10:30 A.M.

Raia was born into a railroading family and as a consequence has always had an interest in trains. Mike started photographing trains at the age of four when his father gave him a Brownie camera. Once Mike received his first camera, he started joining his dad on railfan outings in the Chicagoland area. Mike has continued the railroad tradition and is currently employed at Anacostia Rail Holdings in the Finance Department. Mike has travelled throughout the US, Canada, New Zealand, and Europe photographing and riding trains with his wife Heidi.



Erin ROSE, Madison, Wisconsin

CRP&A Collection Updates, Sunday, 9:00 A.M.

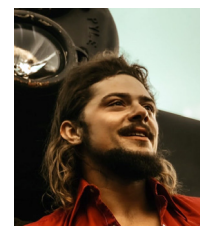
Rose has a master's degree from UW-Madison's School of Library and Information Studies. She joined the Center for Railroad Photography & Art in 2017 as an intern, and returned in 2021 in the new role of reference and digital projects archivist. She handles image requests, collections processing, and any other projects asked of her. She traces railroad roots through her family, including a grandfather who worked for the Milwaukee Road as a locomotive engineer in Green Bay, Wisconsin.



Erik SHICOTTE, * Brookfield, Wisconsin

Interview with Justin Franz, Saturday, 4:15 P.M.

Shicotte is a rising country music star and a rail photographer. In addition to sharing his music on Friday (see p. 4), a late change in our line-up provided the opportunity to showcase his photography as well. A Wisconsin native, Shicotte fell in love with the blues classics at a young age and has been writing his own tracks since he learned to play the guitar in eighth grade. His new single *Miss'ry Pacific* is out now and combines his love for the blues and the rails. CRP&A board member Justin Franz will interview Erik on his songwriting process and how railroading influences his music.



Heather SONNTAG, Madison, Wisconsin

CRP&A Collection Updates, Sunday, 9:00 A.M.

Sonntag joined the CRP&A in 2020, was promoted to associate archivist in 2021, and has been processing the Ron Hill Collection. She holds a doctorate in cultural history with a focus on 19th-century photography albums and a master's of library and information studies from UW-Madison. She has interned with the Library of Congress, and also works as an assistant archivist of visual materials at the Wisconsin Historical Society.



Images from Conference Presentations





Left, top: Nearly new H-6 2-6-6-2 mallets nos. 1309 and 1302 with the *Scarlet Shifter*. The two mallets drag their train of loads away from the mine at Scarlet, West Virginia, up the heavy grade along the Trace Fork of Pigeon Creek to the tunnel under Trace Mountain. They'll soon be down to 3 m.p.h. and running in simple as they approach the summit of the branch inside the tunnel. Gene Huddleston took a bus to Scarlet in 1953 to photograph this train, and hitched a ride back on a farmer's truck, catching up with the slow-moving train in the process. From presentation assembled by Karen Parker and delivered by Kevin Keefe.

Left, bottom: Union Pacific no. 819 has just finished switching their remaining customers in Chicago – Bloomers Chocolate and the *Chicago Tribune* newspaper. The train serves the area twice a week and will make its way back to Proviso yard. Photograph by Mike Raia.

Above:
 Railway Break Room
 Oil-on-Canvas
 30x40 inches
 Painting by Lee Alban





Left, top: The 2 and 6 trains pull into the 180th Street Station in New York City, New York, on May 9, 2019. Photograph by Dennis Livesey.

Left, bottom: Throttling the last few miles of sunlight up to Searles Junction, six of the Trona Railway's EMDs pound the Mojave with an outbound train for interchange. Photograph by Erik Shicotte.

Above: A herd of sheep graze along the BNSF tracks in Kenaston, North Dakota, in 2013. Photograph by Lewis Ableidinger. From the presentation *The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology* by Kevin Keefe.



Above: Baltimore and Ohio local freight gathers coal cars from area mines in Buckhannon, West Virginia, on July 1, 1956. View was taken by James Shaughnessy from Sandy Worthen's 1956 Oldsmobile. Photograph from The CRP&A Collections Update.

Right: Westbound Milwaukee Road no. 107 leaves Green Island, Iowa on the MILW's Iowa division, in August 1979. Llanuza returned in November 1984 to take the second shot. Over 500 miles of track has been removed, and while some sections have been converted into bike trails, most of the land has turned into farmland. Photograph by Mark Llanuza.



Print Raffles

The Center has matted fourteen prints from our two new publications *The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology* and *Continuity & Change: The Lure of North American Railroads* that you can win in raffle drawings. The prints will be on display during the Friday reception and throughout the day on Saturday in Brown Hall. Winners of the raffle will be able to select which print they would like to take home. All prints won in this raffle are to be used for personal use only.

There will be two raffle drawings. The first will take place on Friday following dinner, and the second will take place following presentations on Saturday.

Raffle Tickets

Ticket prices for each raffle are \$10 each, \$25 for three, or \$40 for five. You may purchase tickets on Friday evening and on Saturday morning.

About the Raffle

From *The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology*

BNSF, Kenaston, ND, 2013, *Lewis Ableidinger*
Between Holyoke and Paoli, CO, 2018, *Wayne Depperman*
US Steel, East Pittsburgh, PA, 2018, *Oren Helbok*
Original Union Pacific grade, west of Corinne, UT, 2007, *Drake Hokanson*
Coaling Towers, Northern Maine Junction, ME, 2019, *David Kahler*
Thurmond, WV, 1987, *Kevin Scanlon*
Jones & Laughlin Steel, Aliquippa, PA, 1985, *Kevin Tomasic*

From *Continuity & Change: The Lure of North American Railroads*

BNSF, Chapelle, NM, 2018, *Bryan Bechtold*
BNSF, Grizzly, MT, 2021, *Justin Franz*
MTA, Line 7 at 46 St, New York City, NY, 2015, *George Hiotis*
UP, Willcox Playa, AZ, 2021, *Rick Malo*
ArcelorMittal, Cleveland, OH, 2019, *Dee Matyas*
Metra, Chicago, IL, 2017, *Mike Raia*
NYS&W, Lanesboro, PA, 2020, *Eric Williams*

Left: BNSF, Kenaston, ND, 2013, Lewis Ableidinger

Middle: Between Holyoke – Paoli, CO, 2018, Wayne Depperman

Right: US Steel, East Pittsburgh, PA, 2018, Oren Helbok

Left: Original Union Pacific grade, west of Corinne, UT, 2007, Drake Hokanson

Middle: Coaling Towers, Northern Maine Junction, ME, 2019, David Kahler

Right: CSX, Thurmond, WV, 1987, Kevin Scanlon

Left: Jones & Laughlin Steel, Aliquippa, PA, 1985, Kevin Tomasic

Middle: BNSF, Chapelle, NM, 2018, Bryan Bechtold

Right: BNSF, Grizzly, MT, 2021, Justin Franz

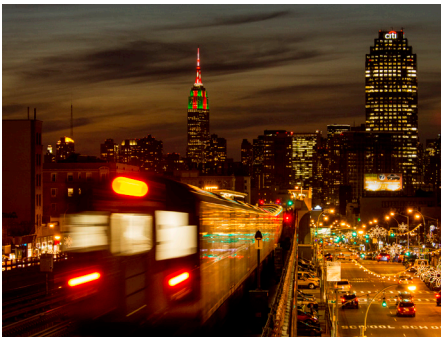
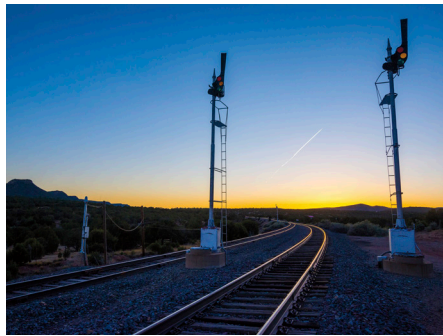
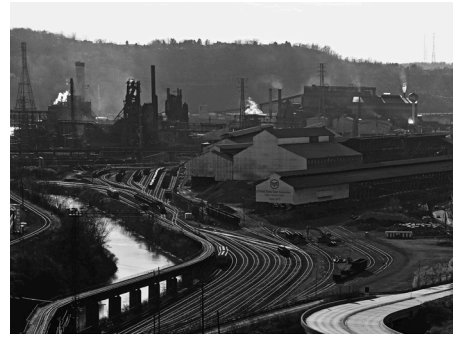
Left: MTA, Line 7 at 46 St, New York City, NY, 2015, George Hiotis.

Middle: UP, Willcox Playa, AZ, 2021, Rick Malo

Right: ArcelorMittal, Cleveland, OH, 2019, Dee Matyas

Left: Metra, Chicago, IL, 2017, Mike Raia

Middle: NYS&W, Lanesboro, PA, 2020, Eric Williams



Docent Program



For the past several years, the Center for Railroad Photography & Art has been offering scholarships for emerging photographers and visual artists to attend our *Conversations* conference at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois. Scholarship recipients serve as docents during the conference and will present their photography during Saturday programming. We are pleased to present this year's recipients: August VanCleave and Charlie Voyda.

August VanCleave is a third-year graphic design major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Fascinated by the Union Pacific and BNSF Railway's routes across Nebraska from a young age, August aims to combine the artistic, storytelling, and historical aspects of railroading into his work. During his presentation, August will share the story of his journey as a graphic artist and photographer, and his philosophy of what it means to be a railfan.

Charlie Voyda graduated from high school in 2020 and currently lives and works in Chicago. He enjoys volunteering at the Illinois Railway Museum to restore old trains and make photographs. He also enjoys attending concerts and taking road trips with his dad. On these road trips, Charlie enjoys taking landscape shots, especially ones that incorporate historic architecture and landmarks.

Gifts from the conference's many patrons provide the funds that make these scholarships possible.

Above: Early in spring 1994, a pair of new Chicago & North Western Dash 9s and a UP SD60M carry an intermodal over the Missouri River, in Blair, Nebraska. This piece was completed in March 2016 and is one of many colored pencil scenes **August VanCleave** made during his high school days.

Right: Frontview of Armco Steel E-110, a Lima LS-1200, currently housed at the Illinois Railway Museum. Photograph by **Charlie Voyda**.



Book Sales

Several titles will be available this year at the Friday reception in the Glen Rowan House and in Brown Hall throughout the day on Saturday. Attendees must check in at registration and be wearing their name tag prior to purchasing a book.

Please note that all books are available in limited quantities and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

The Center can accept cash, check, and credit card payments.

- *Continuity and Change: The Lure of North American Railroads*, edited and published by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, 2022, **\$65.00**

- *The Railroad and the Art of Place: An Anthology*, edited and published by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, 2021, **\$60.00**

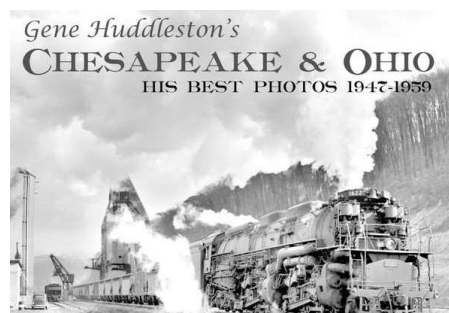
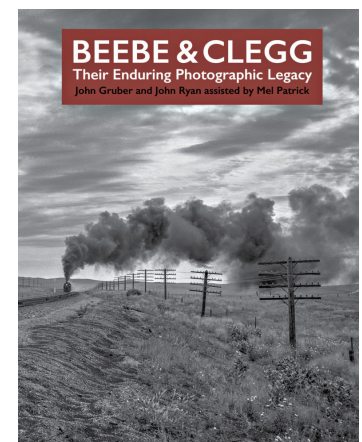
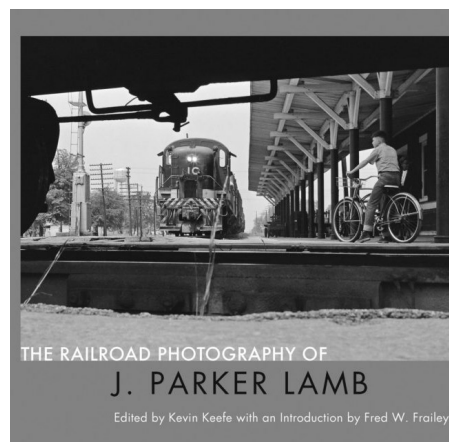
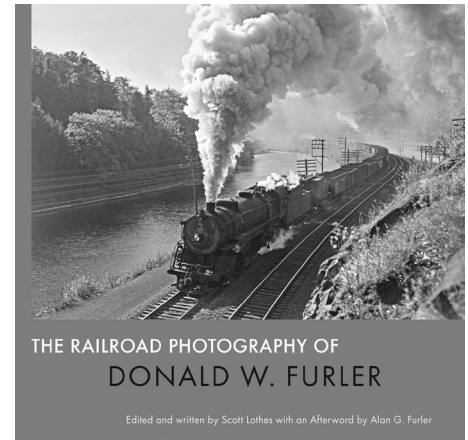
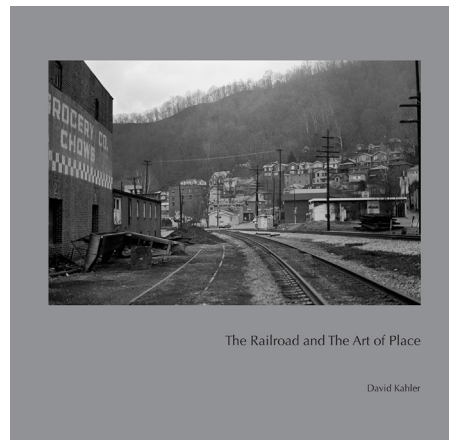
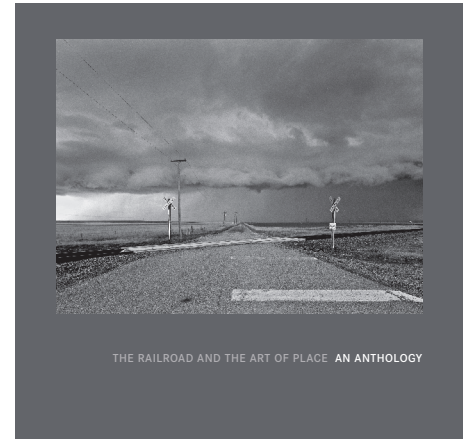
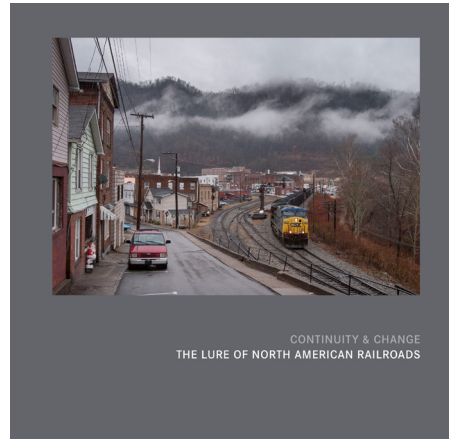
- *The Railroad and the Art of Place*, by David Kahler, edited and published by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, 2016, **\$60.00**

- *The Railroad Photography of Donald W. Furler*, edited and published by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, 2020, **\$60.00**

- *The Railroad Photography of J. Parker Lamb*, edited and published by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, 2019, **\$60.00**

- *Beebe and Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy*, by John Gruber and John Ryan, published by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, 2018, **\$65.00**

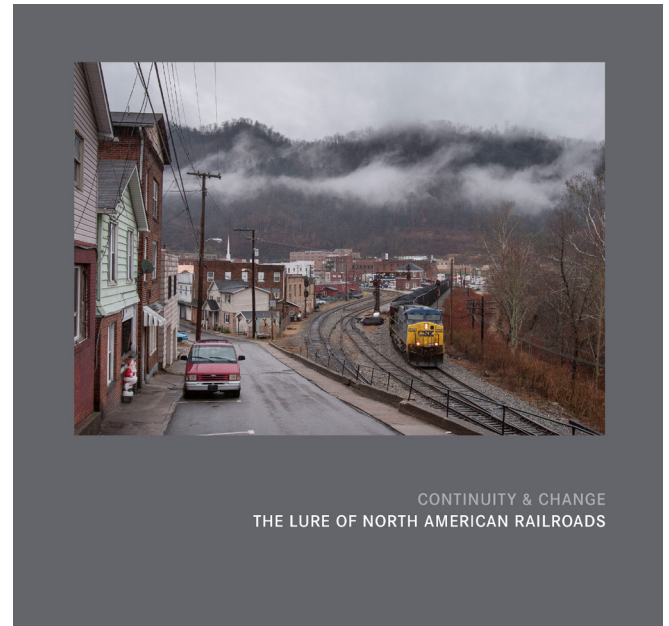
- *Gene Huddleston and the C&O – 1947 to 1959*, by Karen Parker, published by the C&O Historical Society, 2019, **\$35.00**



Continuity and Change: The Lure of North American Railroads, a new publication by the CRP&A

Railroads and photography came of age together in the nineteenth century and share a dynamic relationship in the twenty-first. That relationship flows from the traditions of both commercial photography and photojournalism, and it is defined today by the paradox of continuity and change.

This landmark publication explores that paradox—and the contemporary nature of the North American railroad—in more than 230 photographs and thirteen essays. They delve into a wide range of topics: railroads and nature, pathways of commerce, passenger railroading, heritage activities, workers, international connections, the allure of continent-crossing networks, and how the passage of time marks both railroads and photography. That last notion is at the heart of this book. Railroads invented standardized time, time came to govern railroads, and photography records moments in time.



The nature of visible changes on the railroad is often that of great steps followed by long plateaus, and this nature can imbue the railroad with a false sense of continuity. Yet more changes always come. Photographers portray these changes over time, capturing visual records of the present before it becomes the past. They seek the bold, new innovations as well as the relics of anachronism. Although recent changes to the railroad have made its equipment more homogenous, its landscape more sterile, and its impact more hidden, these photographs show that the modern railroad is still dramatic, bold, diverse, evocative, and utterly vital to the global economy.

Drawing from the Center for Railroad Photography & Art's talented community of image-makers and from their own lifelong interests in railroads and the visual arts, editors Alexander Craghead and Scott Lothes present a stunning body of work. It commemorates the Center's 25th anniversary while making a compelling case that the union of railroads and photography is as rich and potent as ever.

\$65, hardcover, 11 x 11 inches, 384 pages
Available only at Conversations 2022

These books will be available for sale during the receptions on Friday and Saturday from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. at the Glen Rowan House and Brown Hall, respectively. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted.

We are offering an exclusive opportunity to purchase a copy of the Center's latest publication, *Continuity and Change: The Lure of North American Railroads* before its public release in September. Available nowhere else!

Take advantage of a **special offer** to purchase *Continuity and Change* and receive \$10.00 off of any other book purchase.

Remembering Jim Wrinn

We deeply mourn the recent loss of Jim Wrinn, 61, longtime editor of *Trains* Magazine and avid supporter of the Center, who died at home on March 30, 2022, after a valiant 14-month battle with pancreatic cancer. Jim was a tireless, passionate ambassador for the railroad industry and railfan community, and a colleague and mentor to writers and photographers everywhere. He was a wonderful friend to the Center, promoting our work, making connections, assisting with archival identification, and presenting multiple times at Conversations conferences.

In 2005, Jim presented *Photography for Publication*, less than a year after being named editor of *Trains*, his dream job. In 2013, he moderated a panel on railroad journalism with Don Phillips, Matt Van Hattem, Steve Barry, Marc Entze, and Alexander Craghead. He and future wife Cate Kratville met during the 2013 conference when she presented about her father, author and photographer Bill Kratville.

In 2015, Jim was a co-presenter for *Great American Railroad Stories*, assisting presenter Diane Bacha, along with Ron Flanary, Don Hofsommer, Joel Jensen, and Don Phillips. Finally in 2018, he presented *End of Appalachia Steam*, featuring the work of William G. Gordon who had died just a few weeks ahead of the conference.

In writing Jim's obituary for *Trains*, Kevin Keefe (a Center board member) noted that Jim's longevity in the editor's role – 17 years – was second only to that of the legendary David P. Morgan, who led the magazine for more than 33 years and died in 1990 at age 62. Morgan's editorship and writings deeply influenced Wrinn, who began reading *Trains* in 1967 at age six.

"I could not be a diesel locomotive expert like Dave Ingles, I could not write as eloquently as Kevin P. Keefe, I could not be an industry insider like Mark Hemphill," he wrote in 2009. "But I could bring great enthusiasm to the job, a great love for the subject, and the passion and curiosity of a journalist. The other guys put together fantastic issues of *Trains*, but nobody ever had a better time in this job than me."

Aside from his remarkable career at *Trains*, Jim was actively involved in railroad historical preservation, especially at the North Carolina Museum of Transportation in Spencer, where he volunteered since 1986. He recently served as a vice president at the North Carolina Transportation Museum Foundation.

Jim was a true Southern gentleman, a newsman, and a showman who thrived telling stories in every form of media—from traditional print to live video reports from trackside, inviting all of us to share in his infectious love for trains, from Shays to a revived Big Boy. His easy smile and welcoming spirit sparked thousands of friendships and inspired generations of current and future photographers. Even as Jim battled the "C-word," his spirit could not be dimmed. He and Cate continued their adventures together and to the end, Jim reminded us to "Get busy livin'."

Scott Lothes, president and executive director, credits Jim's championing of his photography and writing as instrumental on his path to leading the Center. He says, "Our mission to preserve significant rail photography is hollow if we don't present and share it with passion and joy. Jim's natural gift for both qualities will inspire us always."

Please join us in keeping Cate, Jim, and their families and friends in your hearts.

— Elrond Lawrence



Top, left: Kevin Keefe, Jim Wrinn, and Cate Kratville-Wrinn at the Friday reception during Conversations 2019. Photograph by Henry A. Koshollek.

Top, right: Jim photographing in Holbrook, Arizona during May 2012. Photograph by Elrond Lawrence.

Bottom, left: Jim reads an excerpt of his story from *Great American Railroad Stories* at Conversations 2015. Photograph by Henry A. Koshollek.

Bottom, right: Jim Wrinn, Cate Kratville-Wrinn, John Barriger, Bon French, and Taylor French at the UP Historical Society meet in Ogden, Utah on May 11, 2019. Photo courtesy Bon French.

All-Time Conference Presenters

February 22, 2003

Lake Forest College

- John Gruber
- Don Horn
- David Plowden
- Brian Solomon
- Matt Van Hattem

March 20, 2004

Lake Forest College

- Mark Hemphill
- Joel Jensen
- Anne M. Lyden
- Bill Middleton
- Mel Patrick
- David Plowden and John Gruber

March 19–20, 2005

Lake Forest College

- Shirley Burman
- Steve Crise
- Tom Garver
- Robert Harr
- Sayre Kos
- Michael R. Valentine
- Jim Wrinn

March 25, 2006

Marquette University

- Jeff Brouws
- Chris Burger
- Kevin P. Keefe
- Sayre Kos
- Greg McDonnell
- Gil Reid
- Michael R. Valentine

March 24, 2007

Lake Forest College

- Steve Barry
- Simpson Kalisher
- Sayre Kos
- Miško Kranjec
- John Roskoski
- Jim Shaughnessy
- Walter E. Zullig Jr.

April 12, 2008

Lake Forest College

- Jeff Brouws
- Victor Hand and Don Phillips
- Don Horn
- Scott Lothes
- David Plowden
- Tony Reeve

April 17–19, 2009

Lake Forest College

- Mark Hemphill
- Kevin P. Keefe and John B. Corns
- Stuart Klipper
- Scott Lothes, panel with Steve Barry, Mike Schafer, and Matt Van Hattem
- Kelly Lynch
- Kevin Scanlon
- Don Sims

April 23–25, 2010

Lake Forest College

- Frank Barry
- Ted Benson and Tom Taylor
- Jeff Brouws
- Jim Brown
- Ian Kennedy
- Linda Niemann and Joel Jensen
- David Plowden
- Alex Ramos

April 15–17, 2011

Lake Forest College

- Lewis Ableidinger
- Lina Bertucci
- John Gruber
- Olaf Haensch
- Clark Johnson and Richard Solomon
- Stan Kistler
- Joe McMillan
- Gordon Osmundson
- Karl Zimmermann

April 13–15, 2012

Lake Forest College

- Bill Botkin
- Shirley Burman
- Steve Crise
- Tom Fawell
- Christian Goepel
- Drake Hokanson
- Joel Jensen
- Clark Johnson and Richard Solomon
- Henry Posner III
- Chris Starnes

April 12–14, 2013

Lake Forest College

- Wes Carr
- Pablo Delano
- Michael Froio
- Matthew Kierstead
- Cate Kratville
- Mitch Markovitz
- Tony Reeve
- Casey Thomason
- Steve VanDenburgh
- Jim Wrinn, panel with Steve Barry, Alexander Benjamin Craghead, Marc Entze, Don Phillips, and Matt Van Hattem

May 16–18, 2014

Lake Forest College, Chicago History Museum

- Jeff Brouws
- Mike Danneman and Ron Flanary
- Travis Dewitz
- John Gruber
- Victor Hand
- Kevin Keefe
- Blair Kooistra
- Kathi Kube
- Mel Patrick
- Glenn Willumson

April 10–12, 2015

Lake Forest College

- Diane Bacha, with Ron Flanary, Don Hofshommer, Joel Jensen, Don Phillips, Jim Wrinn
- Ed Bartholomew
- Ted Benson, Dick Dorn, Dale Sanders, and Dave Stanley
- Justin Franz
- David Kahler
- J. Parker Lamb
- Jeff Mast and Michael R. Valentine
- Peter Mosse
- Bill Stewart
- James Swensen
- Axel Zwingenberger

April 8–10, 2016

Lake Forest College

- Steve Barry
- Wendy Burton and Kevin P. Keefe
- Charlie Castner and Ron Flanary
- John Gruber and John Ryan
- Todd Halamka
- Ronald C. Hill
- Emily Moser
- Steve Patterson
- Tony Reeve
- John Sanderson
- Alan Shaw
- J. Craig Thorpe

October 29, 2016

University of Connecticut

- Mark Aldrich
- Robert Joseph Belletzkic
- Victor Hand
- Matt Kierstead
- Shaun O'Boyle
- Jim Shaughnessy
- J.W. Swanberg

April 28–30, 2017

Lake Forest College

- Drayton Blackgrove
- Katherine Botkin
- Jean Bubley and James J. Reisdorff
- Alexander Benjamin Craghead
- Dan Cupper
- Nicholas Fry
- Eric E. Hirsimaki
- John P. Kelly
- Kevin P. Keefe
- Dennis Livesey
- Alan Miller
- Adam Normandin
- David Styffe
- Paul Wertico with David Cain and John Moulder

April 13–15, 2018

Lake Forest College

- Jim Wrinn
- McNair Evans
- John Austin
- George Hiotis
- Bill Stewart
- Robin Coombes
- Kevin P. Keefe and Scott Lothes
- Alan Furler with Victor Hand
- Robert Gould and Matt Kierstead

September 22, 2018

California State Railroad Museum

- Ted Benson and Tom Taylor
- Shirley Burman
- John Gruber and John Ryan
- Richard Koenig
- John Signor
- J. Craig Thorpe

March 29-30, 2019
Brigham Young
University Museum
of Art

- Alexander Craghead
- Dan Davis
- Barre Fong
- Justin Franz
- Victor Hand
- Drake Hokanson
- Christine Hult-Lewis
- Elrond Lawrence
- Ashlee Whitaker
- Additional panelists, Kevin P. Keefe and James Swensen

Sept. 13-15, 2019
Lake Forest College

- Ben Bachman
- Gil Bennett
- Jennifer Bodine
- Barre Fong
- John Free
- Oren Helbok
- Charlie Hunter
- Ron Perisho
- Eric Williams

April 18, 2020

Virtual Conversations

- Gil Bennett
- Travis Dewitz and Todd Halamka
- Adrienne Evans
- Fred Frailey & Kevin P. Keefe
- Justin Franz
- Oren Helbok & George Hiotis
- Elrond Lawrence
- Dennis Livesey
- Scott Lothes
- Ken Rehor
- Camron Settlemier

Sept. 19, 2020

Virtual Conversations

- Apurva Bahadur
- Darryl Bond
- Frederick Simon
- Laura Smith
- Rolf Stumpf & Mike Valentine
- Roger Watt

April 10, 2021

Virtual Conversations

- Patrick Cashin
- William Gill
- Jonathan Glancey & Ian Logan
- Erik C. Lindgren
- Jeff Mast
- Kevin Scanlon
- Kevin Tomasic
- Yoichi Uzeki

Directors, Officers, and Staff



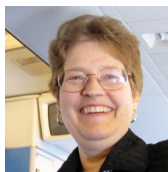
Ronald L. Batory, Santa Fe, New Mexico, just retired as the administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration. His prior career spanned forty-five years in the railroad industry as president of The Belt Railway Company of Chicago and president and chief operating officer of Conrail.



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*.



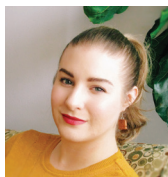
Adrienne Evans (Archivist), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from UW-Madison's School of Library Information Studies in 2014. She worked at History Colorado for two years before coming to the Center in 2017.



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 & Marketing Coordinator), Salinas, California, joined the Center's team in the part-time role of acquisitions coordinator in 2021. His expanded role is divided between working with collections donors and establishing a marketing communications program for the Center.



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, has been processing the Ron Hill Collection. She holds a doctorate in cultural history and a master's of library and information studies 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.

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.

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, and contributor to our collections program.

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.

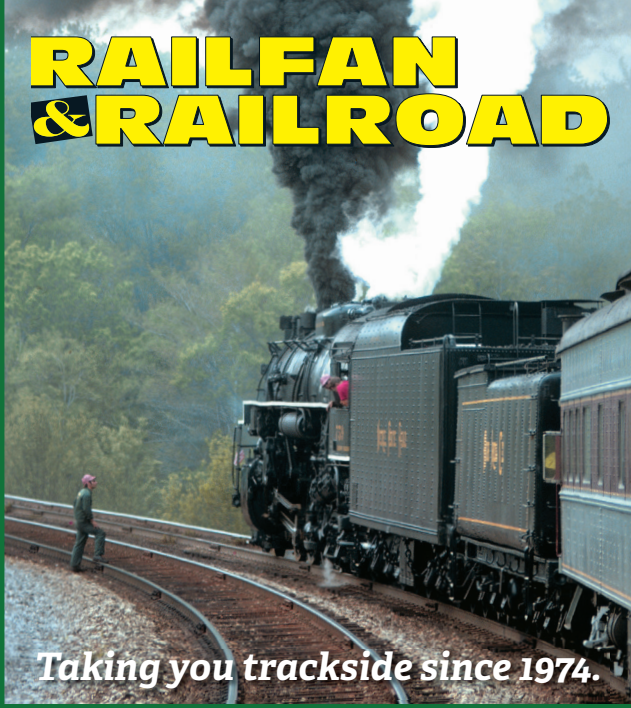


Conductor Tom Burke smiles as he helps passengers climb aboard the last Milwaukee Road passenger train out of the Madison, Wisconsin depot, on April 30, 1971. Photograph by John Gruber.

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.

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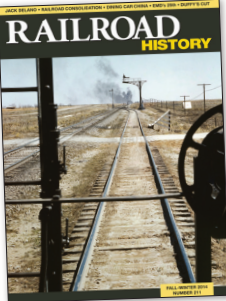


As the oldest railroad historical society in North America, founded in 1921, the R&LHS is proud to support the programs of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art.

The award-winning R&LHS journal *Railroad History* combines scholarly writing and in-depth book reviews with a vibrant format, and is one of the world's premier publications devoted to the history of technology.

Many conference participants are R&LHS members already. We urge you to join their ranks as we explore the history of the railroad industry.

Please visit the R&LHS table and take advantage of bonus copies of *Railroad History* for those who become members at the conference. Current R&LHS members can also renew and purchase back issues.



R&LHS, PO Box 2913, Pflugerville, TX 78691-2913

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Tom Danneman photo

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Classic Trains MAGAZINE

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. We are happy to return in Lake Forest College in 2022.

The Center has hosted several regional conferences, including a meeting in 2019 featuring 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.



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PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

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