

STROLL

Glencoe

AROUND TOWN

GYS Hosts Photo Contest Winners

SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE ROSENTHAL, GYS

It was a gathering for all seasons as the winners of the 2022 Green Bay Trail Photo Contest discussed their works at the Artists' reception and opening exhibition on Sunday, Jan. 22, at The Space at Glencoe Youth Services. This is the second contest sponsored by the Friends of the Green Bay Trail featuring the historical trail but was the first time contest winners had had their works available for public viewing. More than 15 photos, taken by new and experienced photographers from North Shore communities, showcased numerous sites and wildlife along the trail from Wilmette north through Highland Park to Fort Sheridan.

The Friends' 2020 competition was created due to the organization's inability to continue its planned

community programming due to COVID-19. With indoor activities limited, there was a huge burst of activity on the Green Bay Trail, resulting from people working from home. The contest was designed to encourage people to get outside, engage with nature and socialize safely. Friends' Board member Meridith Clement credits the easy accessibility of the trail to area residents with the increase in usage. "Restrictions brought on by COVID-19 brought a diverse population to the trail, expanded the population profile and the use of the trail. People found the benefits of just being outside. The photography contest was a natural extension of that," explains Meridith. "We sought to show off the trail, showcase its restoration and the variety of recreational



opportunities on the trail. We invited the public to share their trail discoveries and experiences."

This was the case for photographer Diana Horvath who credits time spent outdoors during the onset of COVID-19 as key to reviving her interest in photography and melding it with her interests in walking and plants. "I especially like to notice beautiful interplays

of light, color and pattern and to try to capture the image with the surprisingly good optics of my iPhone 11. My photo of red Euonymus (Burning Bush) berries depicts the three elements of bright winter light, the vivid red berries and the patterns along the Green Bay Trail on a January day."

Photographer Katherine Frey takes her inspiration from the little things that

A close-up photograph of a branch with several clusters of bright red berries. The berries are attached to thin, reddish stems. The background is a soft-focus blue sky with bare tree branches and a layer of snow on the ground.

Diana Horvath, "Burning Bush Berries"

make nature beautiful. Her photo, *Serene Beauty*, features the delicate aspects of nature. "I'm inspired by the little things that make nature beautiful. I took this picture right before sunset and was intrigued by the yellow jackets having their afternoon snack. I love how I was able to capture the dangerous beauty of these fragile creatures. I also really like the purple and white flowers creating a symphony of colors."

English writer William Thackeray once said, "The two most engaging powers of a photograph are to make new things familiar and familiar things new." For local lawyer and photographer David Kopka, who aspires to have us all experience the outdoors, this quote particularly rings true. Kopka says, "I share my photos and experiences with others, and they invariably say: 'Wow, where in the world did you get that shot?' Ninety-nine percent of my photographs were taken locally, literally within



miles of my home. The photo, *Uncle Buck*, was taken on the Green Bay Trail near Highland Park.”

Glencoe Youth Services Program Director Michelle Rosenthal is thrilled with the transformation of the field house into an exhibition venue she refers to as “The Space.” “I love the fact that the field house, which is home to Glencoe Youth Services, can serve as a multi-use space for the community,” Michelle explains. “This exhibit can bring the beauty of the Green Bay Trail to the students that visit the field house and hopefully inspire them to express themselves artistically. At the same time, it draws in members from the community who might be unaware of the community services and special events that we offer to area adolescents. We plan to offer an accompanying series of photo workshops for both adults and students and that, as an extension of this exhibit, will profile student images taken along the trail this spring.”

The Friends of the Green Bay Trail Photo Contest Winners Exhibit will be on display at The Space at Glencoe Youth Services at 680 Greenwood Ave. through Feb. 26. This is the first of a series of public art exhibits at The Space at Glencoe Youth Services. For more information on the exhibit or for upcoming exhibition ideas, contact Michelle Rosenthal at director@glencoeyouthservices.org.