Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

May 2024 Newsletter

CCCC Takes on The Big Apple

Saturday, April 20 was a day that will live on in many of our memories. That day, 40 enthusiastic CCCC members boarded a luxury bus at 9 am from Westminster Church and headed for the Big Apple! Our very own NYC expert, Howard Sundwall, planned and led a great walk pointing out the highlights of Central Park on this beautiful spring day with lots of cherry trees and wildflowers in bloom.

Some of the iconic landmarks we visited included the beautiful Bow Bridge, a trek through the Ramble (known for bird-watching), Belvedere Castle, Bethesda Fountain and Terrace, Strawberry Fields and the Imagine Mosaic. It was great to be among so many people enjoying the park. We saw and photographed horse and carriage riders, bicyclists, joggers, roller-blades, sunbathers, street performers, musicians, dancers, lots of turtles and more!

Before heading back, we stopped at Brooklyn Bridge Park to photograph the sunset over Manhattan and experience the famous Brooklyn Bridge and NYC skyline all lit up at night. What an amazing day with so many shooting options - some used Lensbaby filters, some experimented with motion panning, and some folks made images incorporating "framing" for the monthly competition. Look for some candids of members enjoying the day later in this newsletter and see their images in the gallery .

Extra special thanks to Howard for all his work to ensure our members had a great experience. We all enjoyed getting together with fellow club members and meeting some of our newer members. We hope to see many of you on our outings and bus trips in the future!

April Happenings

Club Outing -WCU Golden Ram Invitational track meet

CCCC photographers embraced a unique opportunity to get close to the action and sharpen one's skills shooting action shots like these by Matt McLaughlin and Susan Jones. Outings coordinator, Svenne Juul, once again arranged for special photo access to this early-season outdoor track and field invitational meet at West Chester University. You can see more images by club members in the gallery.

Critique Group

The in-person critique group was graciously hosted by Carolyn Mead. Pictured here are Anita Bower, Buzz Mossholder, and Jim Samanen as they shared their prints and received feedback from the other participants in a friendly forum.

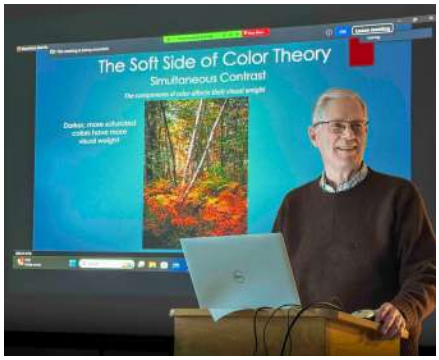
Post-processing zoom group

Buzz Mossholder wrapped up his series of instructional zoom demonstrations of photoshop techniques. The participants all heartily expressed their gratitude for Buzz's hard work and willingness to share his knowledge.

"I always say, I learn more than anybody else while teaching!" - Buzz Mossholder

All lessons are available to watch on YouTube - click here.

Members Forum:



The Soft Side of Color Theory, Buzz Mossholder

Buzz provided examples of how color has a dramatic effect on photographs, and he discussed how to enhance your photos by carefully considering color as you compose and edit them. Lots of good information was shared, such as considering the background to improve separation from the subject and overall color harmony, and types of color harmonies. You can view a pdf of the presentation here.

Monthly Meeting:

Logistics of Competitions
Guest Speaker, Dutch Bagley

Dutch shared his passion (he calls it his obsession) for entering photography competitions. He talked about which ones he enters and why; his acceptance rate; framing; printing; annual cost to enter; how he prices images; and his extensive Excel spreadsheet to track all of this! Here is a link if you missed it.

Mentor/Mentee Meeting

Led by Jennifer Powell, the mentees hit the streets of West Chester, putting some of the things that they learned in the classroom to work. It was a great way to share information between the participants and continue to become more familiar with their cameras. Enjoying the outing: (left to right) Tom Weishaar and Emi Shigeno (photo by Jennifer) , Drew Aungst, Jennifer Powell, Aley Cheung (photo by Emi), Drew Aungst (photo by Jennifer).

Bus Trip to Central Park NYC

One of our largest group shots ever (thank you Becky Chiodo!) shows lots of happy photographers as we entered Central Park. Shortly thereafter the group dispersed and some explored on their own, while a large group stayed with tour guide, Howard, as he led us through the highlights of the park. And everyone had a custom map created by Howard to show our route, so people could rejoin the group whenever they wanted -
thank you Howard!

Clockwise from left:
George and Becky Chiodo dancing to the music of a street musician, Wayne Dixon observing Turtle Pond, Atala Toy atop Belvedere Castle, new member Ted Chen with May Ho at the Imagine Mosaic, Jim Wilson and Eva Connor framed by a bubble, Yijiun Chen in Strawberry Fields, Cathy Kuhlman shooting through a Lensbaby prism. Be sure to see many terrific images in the gallery.

Workshop - Fire Spinning Fun!

Lined up and ready for some fire-spinning action! CCCC members teamed up with friends from the Berks Photo Society at this evening workshop hosted by Mark Bergkvist and The Photography Workshop. In addition to setting steel wool on fire and making sparks fly, we had fun photographing some cool laser wands and capturing amazing images projected by a Pixelstick. Check out the unusual sizzling images in the gallery here.

Important Announcements:

Election Day is Almost Here!

May 8 is voting day at CCCC! We're pleased to present this wonderful and talented slate of officers who are willing to volunteer their time and talents to make our club the best in the area. Come and show your support and cast your vote in person or via Zoom!

President	Jennifer Powell
Vice President	Stephanie Vacek
Secretary	Carolyn Mead
Treasurer	Helen Wagner
Member at Large	Carol DeGuiseppi
Member at Large	Sheila Fredericks

Hold the Date!

Our annual End of the Year event is scheduled for ***Wednesday, June 12!*** More information will be forthcoming, but you won't want to miss this one!

Summer Challenge 2024

Don't put your cameras away for the summer. The 2024 Summer Challenge is right around the corner!

This year's theme is "In the _____." Eg. "In the attic."

This picture from last year shows participants enjoying dinner after a group meetup. As in the past, there will be two outings; one each in June and July, followed by the traditional pot-luck supper and image viewing event in August. Be sure to check your email inbox for your invitation!

April Competition - "Framed"

The art of framing goes beyond capturing a subject; it involves considering the elements surrounding it, shaping the viewer's focus, and creating a visual narrative. New member, Gary Altoonian, filled in at the last minute to judge the competition and provide helpful suggestions for image improvements. Thank you Gary, and welcome to the club!

First Place ribbons in the assigned print categories were awarded to: Jennifer Powell in monochrome for "Snowing Out There", and to Atala Toy in the color category for "Live Oak Framing Azaleas".

Richard Donham earned the first place ribbon in the assigned digital color category with "The Connection" and the first place in the assigned digital monochrome category went to Valerie Dunn for "Heading under the Bow Bridge".

Congratulations to all! To see all images in the competition, go to Competitions / Competitions Results, then choose the competition (eight categories) and be sure to check the little box "Display all images".

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Group - *May 5*

Warm weather and longer days mean more time to get outside and photograph. Then you can bring those images to the Monthly Critique Group and get some valuable input from your peers. This members-only group meets both in person and via Zoom, typically on the first Sunday of each month. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend time with photo friends, possibly meet some new friends, and have fun! Sound like this is for you? Contact Jim Samanen to get you all set up!

Members Forum - *May 8*

Getting the Most From Photography Workshops with Helen Wagner

If you ever thought of participating in a photo workshop or have participated in one, you know there are hundreds available ranging from single classes to multi-day local excursions to adventure travel, taught and led by a wide range of people. This session will concentrate on ways to sort through the options and provide some tips so you can select workshops that are right for you.

Monthly Meeting - *May 8*

The Artist Photographer
Guest Speaker, Derek Jecxz

When it comes to making a photograph, the image in your mind matters more than the light, sky, mountains, rain, or wind. The artist photographer enriches the world with their creative vision, they are not a Xerox copier. Our guest speaker this month will talk about and reinforce that we are artists, not just picture takers! To view some of his favorite artistic images, check out his website.

Mentor/Mentee Meeting - May 15

Weather permitting, the May session will also be held outdoors. Longer daylight hours allows more time for hands-on practice! More details to come on a specific location, so mentors and mentees, keep an eye out for an email from Jennifer.

Post Processing Group - May 26

The Post Processing Zoom Group led by Buzz Mossholder finished up their series of classes in April. The May meeting will be in-person at a local restaurant to be determined and give participants a chance to discuss there next steps. If you signed up for these sessions, you will receive an email with more detailed information. All the recorded sessions are available to watch on YouTube - click here.

Upcoming Outings:

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge - May 4

Shorebirds, frogs, horseshoe crabs, and warblers are just a sampling of the wildlife you may see in May at Bombay Hook In addition, tulip trees and wildflowers are blooming, so there is something for everyone! We'll be carpooling for this one. The photo shown is by Svenne Juul.

FDR Skate Park - May 19

FDR skatepark (located towards the southside of FDR park in Philadelphia) is a nationally renowned skatepark among skate-boarders. A Sunday afternoon with decent weather will bring out some of the best skateboarders, and most of them like to be 'shot' while riding (especially if you offer to share your images). Here's a great opportunity to practice some sports photography with photo friends - just be prepared to get a little dirty to get to the best spots! The artistic photo shown here is by Sally Riddle from a previous outing a few years ago.

Dates to Remember

Sat, May 4	Club Outing - Bombay Hook National Wildlife Rescue
Sun, May 5	Monthly Critique Group
Wed, May 8	Members Forum and Monthly Meeting
Wed, May 15	Mentor/Mentee Meeting
Sat, May 18	Workshop Cell Phone Photography
Sun, May 19	Club Outing - FDR Skate Park
Wed, May 22	Monthly Competition
Sun, May 26	Post-processing Zoom group
Wed, Jun 12	End of Year Party and Awards Celebration

Members in the News

Congratulations to long-time club member *Duane Erdman*!! Duane has been an active volunteer at Longwood Gardens for 15 years and last month was one of nine presented with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, a national award honoring volunteers who have dedicated over 4,000 volunteer hours in their community. Recipients received a certificate signed by President Biden, a lapel pin with our nation's eagle emblem, and a note of thanks from the White House.

Duane, an avid orchid grower, has donated about 500 orchids to Longwood's collection of almost 5,000 over the past decade. In addition to photo documentation of the orchids, he helps with record-keeping and barcoding of all the orchids that grow on the property.

Congratulations to *LeeAnn Embrey*! She has been selected to have a One Woman photography show at Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center in West Chester that will run through the summer. The 'Meet the Artist' reception is May 31; save the date so you can head over and give LeeAnn some CCCC support and congratulate her in person!

New Members

Welcome to our newest members, ***Aley Cheung*** and ***Gary Altoonian***! We're happy to have you join us and look forward to getting to know both of you in the coming months. We hope you enjoy all the club's offerings. Special thanks to Gary for helping out in a pinch and stepping in as judge last month!

This Month's Spotlight is shining on Susan Jones

Susan has been with the club for three years. While she's not held any official volunteer roles, she was a great help at our latest holiday party, and she joins in on many club outings and workshops.

She's been involved with photography since high school. Her dad was a professional Portrait and Wedding photographer and had a darkroom in the basement where she learned to develop film and print her own black and white images. Her favorite type of photography is Wildlife, but also enjoys Toy Photography and Landscapes. In the end, she likes whatever keeps her picking up her camera!

Susan enjoys many CCCC events, and admits to being inspired every time she spends time with fellow club members. Going on outings has been a great learning tool for her; observing how other members approach a shoot and then viewing their images on the CCCC website has been very beneficial. Her fellow members have "*pushed me to think out of the box and to approach each outing as if I were telling a story and not just to obtain an image.*"

Susan began her career as a legal secretary for Sun Oil in Tulsa, OK, and held various positions with them over the next 20 years; she also worked as an outside contractor for them on various Right of Way projects until she retired in 2018.

Her photography involvement reaches beyond CCCC; for three years she assisted Mark Bergkvist of The Photography Workshop with the Summer Boot Camps for 9-12 yr olds. She said, "*It was a lot of fun teaching these kids about cameras and photography, especially when it all began to click for them.*" Click, as in click the shutter? Pun intended?

Besides her passion for photography, Susan enjoys kayaking and crocheting. "*Being on the water in my kayak is my happy place, especially when I can take my camera with me. Kayaking with my camera has been beneficial for birding as it's enabled me unique access to the areas where the birds are nesting and feeding.*" It looks like her toy-friends, Woody and Jessie, enjoy being on the water too!

She learned to crochet last summer when she needed something to occupy her mind after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Since then, she's made numerous baby hats for the Chester County Hospital nursery and Neonatal unit. She's also made and donated Chemo Hats and little Angels of Hope for the women at the infusion clinic in Downingtown. Kudos to Susan for turning her diagnosis into something worthwhile for others in need. Her latest scans were clear and we wish her all the best in her ongoing fight!.

Last July Susan had an opportunity to fulfill a bucket list item - a photography workshop shooting Brown Bears in Alaska! This amazing trip was just what Susan needed after her diagnosis. The timing was perfect and allowed her to not think about what she would face upon her return. "*This Brown Bear adventure was the first time in my entire life that I experienced that wonderful feeling of "living in the moment" every second of every day!!*"

Future Spotlight Nominations? Do you know of a member that should be highlighted in a future newsletter? Would you like to share your own photographic story? If you have info you would like considered in an upcoming monthly newsletter, please contact newsletter editors Carol DeGuiseppi or Betsy Wilson.

Opportunities to Show Your Work

Last call for submissions! If you plan to enter this annual contest, the deadline is May 5! Submit one image for a chance to be featured in their magazine and Facebook page. The lucky winner will receive a family membership to Longwood Gardens. Click here for all the details.

Upcoming Exhibits

This annual juried show runs from May 19th through July 12th, with an opening reception from 2-4 PM on Sunday, May 19th at the 431 Art Gallery in King of Prussia. We know of at least one CCCC member who has had images accepted. Why not check out this exhibit and see if there are more. We'll give more details in the next newsletter! Click here for details.

Learning Opportunities

Virtual Lightroom Summit 2024

From May 20 - 24, 2024, The Lightroom Virtual Summit 2024 will feature 15 expert instructors teaching 45 classes—over 33 hours of content! Classes go live each day and are free to watch for 48 hours. If you need some extra LR help, check it out for FREE!!

Competition Tips

Is it a Painting - No, it's a Photo! Is the assigned theme this month. We want to see photographs that blur the lines between realness of a photo – photos that could be mistaken for masterful paintings. This effect could be achieved in-camera, through post processing or by using the filters in your photo editing software to achieve the painterly effect. ***Remember, all elements of the photo must be original work photographed by you***. If you need some inspiration or ideas, click here.

And the Last Hurrah goes to Howard Sundwall

For all his advance scouting and planning for our Central Park Trip so everyone had an enjoyable day! It looks like he was enjoying himself trying to catch bubbles and letting his inner child shine through!

Thanks for an amazing day, Howard!