Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

May 2025 Newsletter

It's Election Time at CCCC!

It's time once again to cast your vote for officers of CCCC. No need to worry about standing in line at your polling place or worry about getting your ballot in the mail on time. Our election will take place at our May 14th meeting, and the best part….you can vote in person or via zoom. There will be no waiting for results … .winners are determined immediately by a simple majority … but, you must be present (or on zoom) to vote!

Our current slate of officers is shown above, and as you can see, the only new candidate is Peggy Kane for Secretary. The others are enjoying their posts, and have agreed to seek another term.

Nominations can also be made from the floor, as long as the person you're nominating is present and agrees to serve if elected.

We have already had some members come forward to express interest in becoming more involved in various committees, and we always welcome volunteers in any capacity. If you're ready to offer some of your time to the club that offers so much, step up and let one of our officers know, and they'll do their best to find a role for you!

April Happenings:

Club Outing:

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve and New Hope

A Double-header! CCCC Photographers started the day exploring the beautiful natural area of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. A wide variety of springtime flowers were at their peak bloom, including a magical meadow of bluebells having their picture taken by Anette Karlsson. Photographers strolled along the woodland trails before enjoying a picnic lunch at the pavilion.

Second stop was at the nearby town of New Hope. Lots of photographic oddities awaited us on the streets and in the store windows of the unusual and funky shops, as you can see in this image snapped by Sheila Fredericks of Betsy Wilson and a new friend.

And of course, a stop for ice cream! Check out the gallery of images.

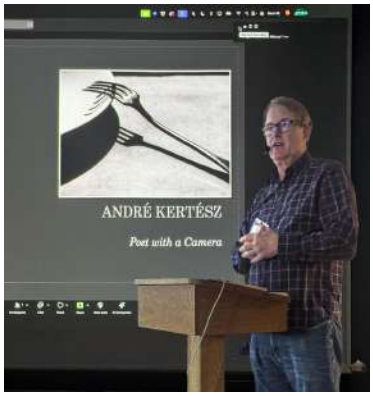
Critique Groups

Members gathered at the home of Norman Maynard to show their prints in-person, and Svenne Juul hosted the digital critique group zoom session. Participants shared their images, gave their own comments and received feedback from the others. Each month, CCCC members can choose to participate either in-person or via zoom - a great way to get to know one another and get valuable suggestions.

Members Forum: "Famous Photographers"

presented by Norman Maynard and Bob Kelly

Club member Norman Maynard presented a fascinating history of Gordon Parks, a prominent photojournalism photographer best known for his iconic photos of the challenges experienced by African Americans. In addition to taking many photographs for Life Magazine and Vogue, he was also a filmmaker, composer and author.



Bob Kelly then spoke about one of his favorite photographers, Andre Kertesz, a Hungarian-born photographer known for his groundbreaking contributions to photographic composition and the photo essay. Bob shared some of his favorite images by Kertesz.

Swap Meet!!!

Following the Members Forum, CCCC members gathered in the back of the room where a few tables full of photographic paraphernalia were displayed. Some members donated items, some snatched some up and took them home, and some did both! Books, magazines, camera cases, lens bags, filters - all sorts of stuff! This was a great way for members to support one another in a fun and inexpensive way (free!)

Monthly Meeting:

Lisa Cuchera - "Zugunruhe. Do you feel it too?"

Zugunruhe zoo gun ROO! In birds and other animals, it means migratory restlessness, the behavior that both wild and caged birds (and other animals) exhibit when it's time to migrate or move on.

Some photographers experience ZUGUNRUHE while others might relate to the similar feeling of FOMO (fear of missing out). Lisa gave a fast-paced presentation with many amazing images as she provided tips to make the most of your photographic Zugunruhe. You can see more inspirational images on the website of professional photographers Lisa and Tom Cuchera by clicking here.

Mentor/Mentee Meeting

At the prior Mentor/Mentee meeting, some members asked for instruction on when and how to use flash, so that was the focus of the April gathering. Starting outside in the courtyard at the church, Jennifer Powell demonstrated why one would use a flash on a bright sunny day to open up shadows on a backlit face. Many brought their cameras and flash, and practiced taking shots of a few willing models.

Then, indoors to learn about indoor flash and a variety of modifiers and helpful ideas to control the amount of reflected light onto a subject. Tom Weishaar brought lots of flash gear and set up a backdrop, and he demonstrated the difference of the light with various modifiers, and some clever hacks for those who don't have expensive modifiers.

Tom demonstrated the effect of a bounce card - a 2'x3' whiteboard. The takeaway was that we can manipulate light in various ways to give us creative control, and more options when shooting in an unforgiving environment.

What a difference the bounce light made! Kathy Koons volunteered to pose as Tom first took a shot with a side light, then used the whiteboard to bounce light back up and remove those harsh shadows. Tom shows Jennifer, Kathy and Mayra the before and after images.

This was a great meeting with lots of participation, lots of questions, and lots of learning!

Post Processing Group

Buzz Mossholder demonstrated a variety of steps to improve this image submitted by Jerry Snyder. Jerry's goal was to boost the image which will be used to help find this dog a new forever home. "Jerry always likes to make my life a bit difficult, but I like that because I have to figure it out," commented Buzz during the zoom meeting. A great learning experience for all. The zoom recording is available by clicking here.

April Competition – "Nighttime Wanderings"

The challenge was to experiment with Nighttime Wanderings: Embrace the darkness and explore the world of night photography, the magic of city lights, starry skies, and nocturnal landscapes. Guest Judge Warren Hatch is a professional photographer concentrating primarily around wildlife and deep space subjects, making him a great choice to provide comments on the assigned topic.

First Place ribbons in the assigned category were awarded to: Sheila Fredericks in color projected for "Goshen Fair Rides", to Robert Friedman in monochrome projected for "Two Dogs with Onions, Please", and to James Samanen in monochrome print for "Comings and Goings 2"

In open categories, First place ribbons went to Jim Wilson in monochrome projected for "Havana Ride", to David Ward in color print for "Primulina Tan Boy", to Dean Grantham in color projected for "Feathered Gold", and to James Samanen in monochrome print for "Ice and Wind on the Schuylkill"

Pictured are all the award winners who were at the April competition meeting, along with guest judge, Warren Hatch.

Congratulations to all! To see all images in the competition, go to Competitions / Competitions Results, then choose the competition, and check the box "Display all images".

Club Outing - Valley Forge Photo Tour

The Sunday rain date worked out to provide a beautiful day for enjoying and photographing all around Valley Forge National Historical Park. Jim and Betsy Wilson planned a route and itinerary to allow camera clubbers to experience multiple locations as they caravaned from stop to stop. An unexpected demonstration of a musket shooting provided photographers with the opportunity to get "a shot of the shot".

Clockwise: Jerry with his pal Sugar, Tree huggers around the "Witness Tree", Betsy and Jennifer framed at the Chapel, Richard getting a unique angle, photographers eagerly awaiting the musket shot, and Lee Ann and Jennifer on cannon duty.

To see a wide variety of images of the outing by CCCC photographers, check out the gallery.

Important Announcements:

Bus Trip to Annapolis on May 17

If you registered for "A Tale of Two Harbors" you already received an email with details from our tour leader, Howard Sundwall. Be sure to read it as it contains pertinent information you'll need to know about. If you're one of those folks who waits until the last minute to decide, or if you'd like to add an additional person to your existing reservation, contact Howard and he'll get you all set up, See all the information here.

Hold the Date - *Wednesday, June 11*
Year End Party and Awards Celebration

Another year has gone by, so it's time to celebrate our many successes! Mark your calendar, as you won't want to miss the social event of the season! Details to come.

Upcoming Events:

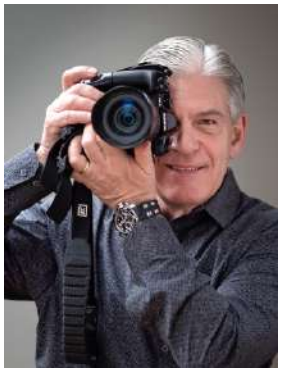
Monthly Critique Groups - *May 4*

If you're looking for some feedback on all the flower photos you captured in April (or any other type of images), look no farther than this group of members who meet both in-person and via zoom. You'll have an opportunity to share your work and benefit from constructive input and inspiration from your peers. Simply contact Jim Samanen and he'll get you all set up!

Members' Forum -*May 14*

Blending Art and Photography - by Norman Maynard

Norman returns as our Members' Forum presenter for a second month. Tonight he'll show us the steps he takes using Photoshop's Style Transfer feature to help create expressionist versions of photographic images.



Monthly Meeting - May 14

March's Judge is this Month's Guest Speaker - Frank Smith presents "Majestic Landscapes"

Come out and join Frank as he journeys across the globe seeking remote locations and photographing the people and the culture, oftentimes in support of philanthropic organizations. He'll share many of his images and discuss what he looks for to ensure compelling photos.

Mentor/Mentee Meeting - May 21

Another exciting learning opportunity awaits us! We'll be practicing, and hopefully perfecting, the panning technique - just in time for the outing to the LV Velodrome! An added bonus will be focused on camera gear, specifically demystifying sensor cleaning. These meetings are open to all members; email notifications are sent before each meeting.

Post Processing Group - May 18 - Zoom Only

This monthly post-processing group is great if you need help with your post-processing skills, or want to learn something new about Lightroom or PhotoShop. Buzz Mossholder answers questions throughout the demonstration, and participants are encouraged to jump in with their own suggestions. Contact Buzz Mossholder for details.

Upcoming Outings:

Winterthur Museum, Gardens and Library

Tuesday, May 13 *(rain date Fri, May 16)*

It's Azalea time at Winterthur and if you've never experienced seeing them at peak bloom time, you definitely won't want to miss this outing! Winterthur, the home of Henry du Pont, is one of several historical du Pont estates in the Brandywine Valley. Come to photograph the amazing azaleas and gardens, wander through the museum, and be sure to go on a tour of the magnificent house. You can read more about Winterthur here. This outing is weather dependent, so be sure to keep an eye out for any updates.

Mt Cuba Center

Sunday, June 1 *(rain date Wed, Jun 4)*

We live in America's Garden Capital, so we may as well take advantage of it and visit another garden, which also happens to have ties to the du Pont family. Mt. Cuba is a botanic garden in New Castle County, DE and is well-known for its wildflowers and native plants. Watch for details as we get closer.

Members in the News

Congratulations to **Cathy Kuhlman**, who has been selected to participate in an exclusive group of creative photographers within the Lensbaby family. She spent several years as an Ambassador, and is now part of a smaller, elite group chosen to participate in their Trailblazer program. One of the new benefits for the Trailblazers is a page of their own on the Lensbaby site. Here's hers if you'd like to take a peek! https://lensbaby.com/pages/cathy-kuhlman.

Atala Toy's photography of "Nature Beings" will be featured in a dual exhibition called "Photography and Woodworking" at the Newark Arts Alliance Gallery in Newark, DE, from May 20 - June 20. Shown here is "Pontiff and Dog in Spruce Root", one of the images that will be on display. Congratulations Atala!

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendar!

Sun, May 4	Critique Groups
Tue, May 13	Club Outing - Winterthur
Wed, May 14	Members' Forum and Guest Speaker
Fri, May 16	rain date for Winterthur outing
Sat, May 17	Bus Trip to Annapolis and Baltimore
Sun, May 18	Post Processing Group
Wed, May 21	Mentor/Mentee Meeting
Wed, May 28	Monthly Competition
Sun, Jun 1	Club Outing - Mt. Cuba
Wed, Jun 4	rain date for Mt. Cuba outing
Wed, Jun 11	End of Year Party
Fri, Jun 20	Club Outing - Velodrome Racing

The Spotlight is shining on new member Ralph Nigro!

Ralph joined CCCC in May 2024, so Happy Anniversary! As a Delaware transplant, he is also relatively new to Chester County. He and his wife, Jill moved to Kennett Square in July 2023, and who should his new neighbor be, but long-time club member, Dick Greenwood who recently passed away, and who urged Ralph to join a club for the first time in his life. Dick evidently knew Ralph would be a good addition to our club!

While Ralph is new to our club, he's definitely not a newbie to photography. He started shooting film with his father's user-unfriendly 35 mm rangefinder when he was about fourteen and graduated to an all-manual SLR after scraping up enough money in high school. In spite of studying to be an engineer, he took two photography courses in college, and was hooked!

He's semi-retired now after a career in engineering, and his camera is with him almost constantly. He and his wife love to travel, and she patiently indulges him as he slow-walks his way through the places they visit looking for the next shot.

Ralph admits his photography has changed a lot over the years. At first, he was drawn mostly to landscapes and some still life photography, but realized that he was far too impatient to become good at it. He enjoys the early and mid-20th century photographers like Cartier-Bresson, Walker Evans, Robert Frank, and Diane Arbus, to name a few, because of their more documentary and organic styles. This led to him becoming much more interested in street photography, urban environments, motion, and people as subjects. "*For me, they're less about perfection and more about the moment and impact.*" He switched to digital about twenty years ago, which has allowed him a lot more freedom to experiment, although he does occasionally shoot film. It reminds him to slow down a little and consider what he's shooting more carefully.

Other than photography, Ralph can be found on his bicycle during the warmer weather, and skiing in colder weather, and yes, often doing both with a camera. Judging by his photos shown here, he also likes water sports and beer! Oh yeah - and being a handyman around the house they recently bought.

Ralph shared his experience with the club over the past year and said, "*The club has so many truly talented, creative photographers that I can't help but learn from them. I really enjoy the friendly exchange of ideas and discussions with people who share the same interest, but I especially enjoy seeing the work that they do after the outings and during the competitions. Just recently, I was asked to take on the Mentor Group meetings starting in September, so I'll attempt to follow in the footsteps of some very talented people - and take advantage of their expertise. Being a member of the club makes me realize that this isn't a static thing, it's alive and changing with nearly every shot we take.*"

Opportunities to Show Your Work

Deadline Extended for Chester County Photos!! Submit your best blooming images captured in Chester County by ***May 12th.*** Winning images will be published in their June issue of County Lines magazine. Get all the details and information here.

Competition Tips:

"Candid Street Stories" is the assigned theme for May. Take advantage of the warmer weather and longer days to wander outside and capture the essence of the street! For inspiration and ideas click here!

Be sure to regularly check the CCCC Homepage for news and updates, and links to galleries from recent outings. If you have any information you would like considered in an upcoming monthly newsletter, please contact newsletter editors Carol DeGuiseppi or Betsy Wilson.

The Last Laugh goes to

Jim Wilson, Tom Weishaar, Jennifer Powell, and Alvaro Delgado

Are they surprised, angry, scared, or just acting goofy?

One thing we know for sure, they had a lot of fun at the recent Valley Forge outing.