Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

December 2025 Newsletter

Happy Holidays!

Pictured above: *Young Deer in Winter* by Corinne Masur, *Hot Chocolate Warms the Heart* by Sue Hare, *Christmas Baubles* by Nima Marsh, and *Blue Christmas* by Joe Hare.

Presents, ribbons and bows, lighted trees, and hot chocolate are all signs of the winter holidays. Regardless of which holiday you celebrate during the winter months, it's a festive time of the year. Even if you don't celebrate a specific winter holiday, you can watch the wildlife and enjoy some freshly fallen snow to celebrate another magical season in Chester County.

The images above were all winners in prior year's Winter Photo Contest. This fun contest is a way for you to share one or two of your favorite seasonal images for a chance to win prizes and bragging rights! And best of all, it's not a competition with judges assigning numerical scores and critiquing our artistic and technical abilities. Winners are chosen by club members using a very sophisticated and elaborate voting method called "*Vote for the one you like the best!*"

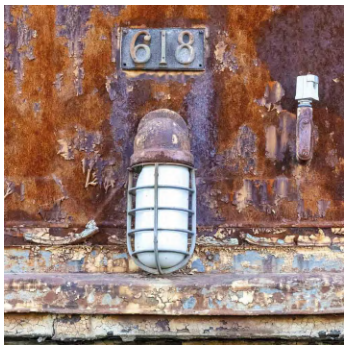
Winners are announced at the Holiday Party on December 13. An email went out Nov 24 from Jennifer Powell that includes instructions for submitting your favorite winter photo. The deadline to submit your images is Monday, December 8, so don't delay!

Happy Holidays to all ~~ Hope to see you at the party on December 13!

November Happenings:

Club Outing-Philadelphia Navy Yard

Quite a large group gathered on a warm autumn day to enjoy exploring the diversity of the Navy Yard. From big ships, to quaint seascapes, from shiny new glass and steel buildings to rust and old crumbling architecture, CCCC photographers managed to find quite a variety of fascinating subjects to capture in images, like these by Chris Shigley, Jennifer Hahn, and Jennifer Powell. See more in the gallery.



Critique Groups

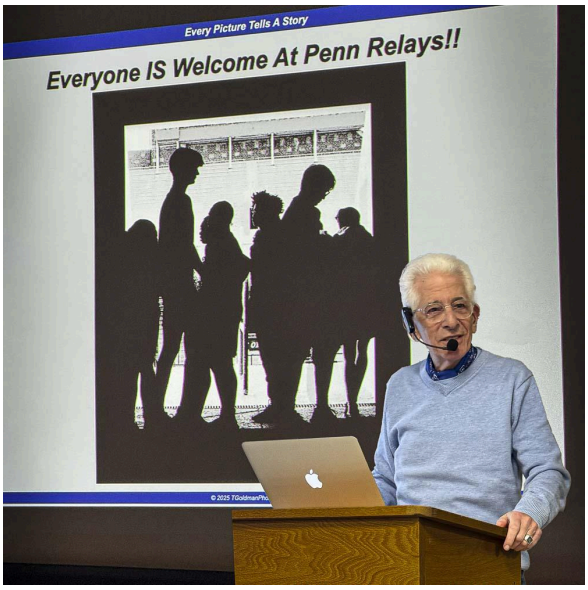
Sue and Joe Hare graciously hosted the November critique group at their home. Participants not only commented on each other's printed images, they critiqued themselves as shown in the clever composite by Sue Hare. More than just a learning experience, but a lot of fun as well! Each month, CCCC members can choose to participate either in-person or via zoom - a great way to get to know one another and get valuable suggestions.

New member welcome gathering

New members were invited to meet up at Pizza Peddler to get to know each other and learn about the club. Looks like a lot of new talent and friendly people!

Members Forum: Sports Photography by Tom Weishaar

CCCC member and professional sports photographer Tom Weishaar delivered an engaging presentation filled with dynamic images from the field. He highlighted the importance of understanding the sport and predicting the action so you can place yourself, and your camera, exactly where the decisive shot will happen. You can watch a recording of the presentation by clicking here.



Presentation: Ted Goldman "Every Picture Tells a Story"

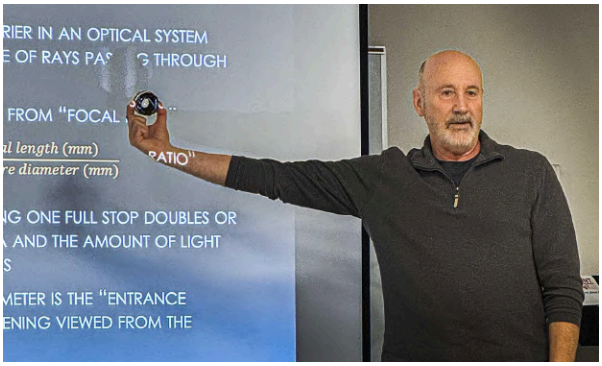
Former CCCC member Ted Goldman is an extremely talented street photographer and has embarked into a new artistic journey. His talk described how modern art inspires and informs his photography, which he illustrated with many inspirational images and a virtual street photography photo walk.

If you missed it, you can watch the YouTube recording here.

Post Processing Zoom Meeting

Buzz Mossholder shared lots of tips on how to use masking tools in Lightroom, including difficult selections like skies. He demonstrated the new tools, and edited images showing the step-by-step process You can watch the YouTube video here.

Technical and Creative Exchange



Ralph Nigro began the meeting with a presentation of the technical aspects of lenses and how they work. He discussed some of the science behind modern lenses, and how things like depth-of-field, focal length, aperture, and sensor size are all related.

Participants then practiced using different lenses, and explored creating bokeh, perspective compression and how your lenses affect them.

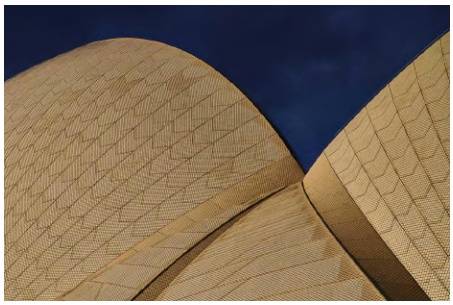
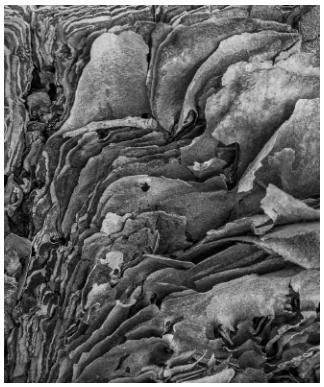
Outing - Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

A dreary November day did not dampen the enthusiasm of CCCC photographers who enjoyed photographing the landscapes, structures, and artistic details at this early American picturesque park. Jim Wilson captured this image of Marc Horton by laying down in a puddle to include that reflection.

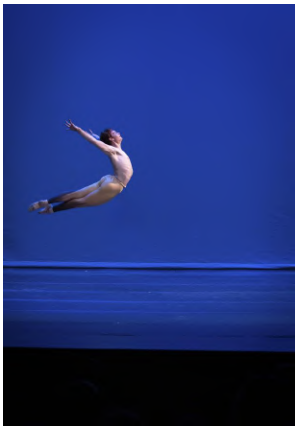
Click here to see images taken by CCCC members in the gallery.

November Competition - "Abstract Textures"

The challenge was to experiment with textures and surfaces in photography. Use macro techniques to capture the intricate details of everyday objects, revealing the beauty in the tactile qualities of the world around us. Guest judge, Richard Lewis, shared observations and suggestions about the entries to help us all learn from the session.

First Place ribbons in the assigned category were awarded to Ralph Nigro for "Opera House Twilight" in the color projected category, and to Nima Marsh for "Pine Layers" in the monochrome projected category. In prints, the blue ribbon went to Robert Porter for "6065" in the Color category, and to Atala Toy in the monochrome category for "Ogilvie Station Chicago"



In the open categories, First place ribbons went to David Ward for "Masdevallia Machu Picchu 'Crown Point", and for "Nelumbo Alba Grandiflora 5838" in the color and monochrome print categories. In digital, the blue ribbon went to Clinton Wolfe for "Rock School of Dance West Chester (Cabriole)" and to Marguerite Hamilton for "Look Up"

Pictured are award winners who were at the competition. Congratulations to all!

To see all images in the competition, go to [Competitions / Competitions Results](), choose the competition, and check the box "Display all images"

Important Announcements

Our regularly scheduled Wednesday programs are taking a break this month and will resume in January. The Monthly Critique Groups will be held as usual on the first Sunday of the month (12/7).

Spring Bus Trip - Saturday, June 20

If you attended this outing to ***Coney Island*** a few years ago, you'll likely want to return. If this will be your first time, you're in for a treat! Get it on your calendar now! More details will be coming in the spring.

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Groups - December 7

Here's your last chance to participate in one of our Monthly Critique Groups for 2025! Take a break from all the holiday hustle and bustle and take some time for yourself. Join other dedicated and enthusiastic club members for a creative and inspirational Sunday afternoon, either in person or via zoom. If this sounds like fun, contact Jim Samanen and he'll get you all set up.

Holiday Party - Saturday, December 13

Our annual Holiday Party will once again be at the very-popular Powell Party Barn. You should have received your e-vite invitation, so be sure to respond YES and sign up to bring something to share for the pot luck brunch. If you haven't received your invitation, reach out to Jennifer Powell.

Don't forget to submit one or two images for the Holiday Photo Contest by Monday December 8 at 11:59 pm . The theme is "Winter Light" and you can find more details on the schedule page here.

Upcoming Outing:

West Chester at Night - Sat, Dec 6

What better way to get into a festive holiday mood than wander around and photograph the lights and window decorations in downtown West Chester. You may even come across some strolling Carolers! We'll meet in front of the Christmas tree at the old courthouse at the intersection of High and Market Streets at 4:00pm. Check the link for details.

Still Life Workshop - Saturday, Jan 10

Back by popular demand! We're repeating this very well-attended workshop from a few years ago. Join us as Betsy, Carol, and Ginia share their tips and techniques for Still Life Photography. This filled up quickly last time, so don't procrastinate. Register soon! Click on the link above for all the details and registration information.

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendar!

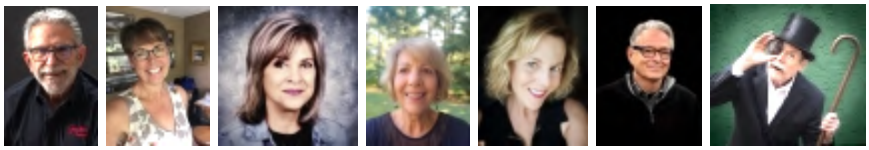
Sat, Dec 6	Club Outing - West Chester at Night
Sun, Dec 7	Critique Groups
Mon, Dec 8	Deadline to enter holiday photo contest
Sat, Dec 13	Holiday Party
Sat, Jan 10	Still Life Workshop
Wed, Jan 14	Members Forum "You Create" *Zoom only*
Wed, Jan 14	Monthly Presentation "Bad Weather Photography" *Zoom only*
Sat, Jan 17	Club Outing - Simeone Automotive Museum
Wed, Jan 21	Technical and Creative Exchange - *Zoom only*
Sun, Jan 25	Post-processing group - *Zoom only*
Wed, Jan 28	Competition Meeting - *Zoom only*

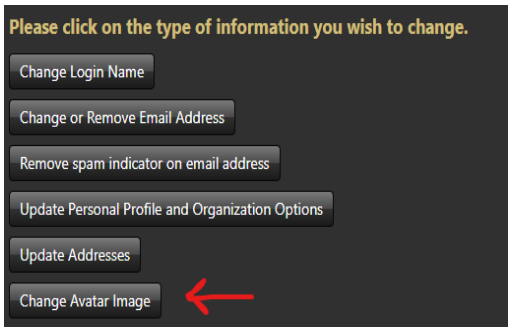
Competition Tips:

There is no monthly competition in December, but that doesn't mean you can't be thinking ahead to January's assigned theme of ***Bokeh Bliss.*** Use a shallow depth of field to create dreamy, blurred backgrounds that accentuate your subject. Here's a link that has additional ideas and inspiration for the monthly themes.

Website Wisdom:

Let's get to know one another - Update your photo on the Membership page!





Have you met fellow members at a meeting only to forget their name later on? Many members have uploaded their image on their membership listing - it is easy to do, and we encourage all members to include a photo of yourself. It will help us to attach a name to that familiar face!
Be sure you are logged in, then go to My Account / My Account settings. Click on Change Avatar Image and upload your photo.

Our Member Spotlight is shining on Tina Camuso this month!

Tina is one of our newer members who just joined us a few months ago, in September. Welcome again, Tina. We're glad to have you!

She's a relative newcomer to photography as well, having started clicking just before Covid hit and shut down the country. She took a boot camp class for some composition tips, as she neither owned a camera, nor intended to buy one. Her plan was to do cell phone photos all the way. That plan failed before the class ended! No surprise there! So, she bought her first camera and came up with a new plan to take just one more beginner class, dabble around with the bridge camera, then wait until she retired in about three years before pursuing photography seriously. Well, you guessed it - that plan failed also and she quickly became addicted! She loved learning, took a zillion classes/workshops, took her camera everywhere, and as you may have guessed, upgraded her camera … well before her retirement date!

Tina's favorite genres are wildlife and larger birds (eagles, herons, egrets, loons, etc) and nature in general. She also enjoys night sky photography and tries to do it whenever she can, but she admits to not being a fan of creeping around in the dark by herself! Some of the photography workshops that she's attended have been to dark sky locations in Utah and West Virginia. She was fortunate to have experienced a northern lights display while in one of these workshops last year. It sure helps when the workshop leaders keep their eye on the sky activity and know exactly where to go!

She also loves landscapes and says she struggles with them, but is determined to meet the challenge: "*Anything that I can turn into a "portrait", I can work with (portrait of a mountain, portrait of a waterfall, a covered bridge, a barn, etc). Big open areas and my mind goes blank. But I'm not giving up!*"

Tina has enjoyed the club so far and is still getting to know folks; she did admit to being inspired by one of our very talented photographers. In her own words….. "*I'm pretty new here so I can't claim anything specific. But it's pretty clear that I need to step up my game. One person that I knew before I joined this club is Betsy. Her creativity is clearly inspiring … another weakness of mine. I'm hoping some of her creativity may wear off on me by proximity. Lol.*"

Tina retired from Lockheed Martin where she was a Systems Engineer, a little over two years ago and has stayed very active since then. She's been on the board for Blind Sports Organization (BSO) for over 25 years. She was elected to a 2-year term eons ago, and she thinks they're hoping she won't notice her term expired a long time ago! In addition to the many tasks she performs there, she's also their event photographer.

She volunteers for Mark Bergkvist at The Photography Workshop, helping with kids summer camps, social media posts, and any of the adult classes/workshops where he can use an extra pair of hands.

In her spare time, she loves to kayak. She's been kayaking long before the camera arrived on the scene; now she does both together! She has a camp (think one-season cottage) in NH, with lake access and spent a good bit of the last two summers following a loon family on the lake, via kayak. "*I've formed a special bond with them … .the Mama was very distressed one day this summer, relaxed when I stopped by, brought her babies over near the kayak, and deputized me into escorting her and the babies back to the nesting area. For real!! Kinda weird/kinda cool. Most of the time they ignore me but are content that I am there.*" We can add Loon Whisperer to Tina's many talents!

New Members

We're happy to welcome **Fran Galvin** and **Theresa Sundwall** to our family of photographers. We're so happy to have you and look forward to getting to know you and your photographic styles in the coming months.

Local Exhibits and Shows

The Holiday Fine Craft Fair, sponsored by the Chester County Craft Guild is on Sat-Sun, December 6-7, at Ludwig's Corner Fire Company Hall-1325 Pottstown Pike, Glenmoore

Club member, ***Jim Samanan*** will have his images on display at this show, so be sure to stop by and give him some good old CCCC support!

Learning Opportunities

Christmas Photography Tips

If you're looking to capture photos that portray the warmth, the spirit, and the festive cheer of the holidays, Digital Photography School (DPS) has some **FREE** tips and techniques to keep your photos looking crisp, bright, and beautiful! Click here!

Free Online Training

LinkedIn Learning is now free! To anyone who has an active Chester County Library card. Just login with your card number and PIN and get access to 16,000 instructional courses, including many photography courses. There are 142 courses just about photoshop!

Public Service Announcement

Creative Live is Shutting Down

If you're one of the many folks who have purchased classes on Creative Live, you may already know their site is shutting down forever on December 31. Log onto their site and you'll be able to download your purchased classes.

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 Hurrah goes to
Bob Kelly

Bob doesn't let a photo opportunity like this pass him by!

He caught these members catching a few much-needed zzzz's during a recent delay due to a technical challenge at our November meeting.

Full Disclosure - Bob likes playing around with and creating images in AI!!