Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

April 2024 Newsletter

Meet Our New Leaders!

Ginia Apostolacus - Top Dog
Uncle Dudley - 2nd in Command

We are thrilled to introduce you to our Top Dog President and 2nd in Command VP for the next club year. Ginia and Uncle Dudley will assume all responsibility for the club beginning immediately after the official vote in May. They are both stellar, long-time club members and we have no doubt they will be unanimously voted in at our free and fair election in May!

Over the past few years, Ginia has been Vice President, President, and currently serves as VP again. She really enjoys being the Top Dog and made a pitch to the nominating committee to put her name on the ballot again. Actually, she begged us!

Uncle Dudley has been a rather quiet member who regularly participates in various club outings. He's an easy going type of guy and will basically do whatever the president tells him to do, so no need to worry about internal conflict or any type of power struggle.

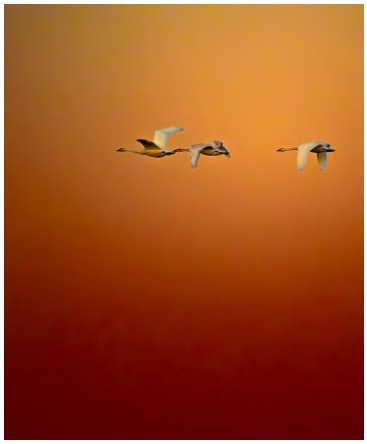
If anyone has any objections to Ginia and Uncle Dudley for Top Dog and 2nd in Command, be sure to come to the May meeting and vote against them!

If you haven't already figured this out -- APRIL FOOLS!!

March Happenings

Club Outing - Middle Creek Snow Geese

Both the weather and the snow geese provided challenges to get the timing right for this outing, but it finally happened. Due to changes in weather patterns, the annual migration was smaller this year, but still a fantastic photo opportunity, as you can see in these images by Marc Horton (left) and Wendy Summer (right). You can see more images by club members in the gallery.



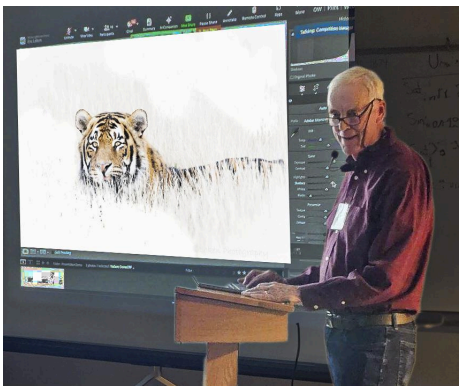
Post-processing zoom group

Buzz Mossholder continued his instructional zoom demonstration of photoshop techniques. This session included a lot about how and why to use layers to make adjustments which allows for more control and flexibility while making enhancements to your images. Click here for a link to this training video and others.

Members Forum:

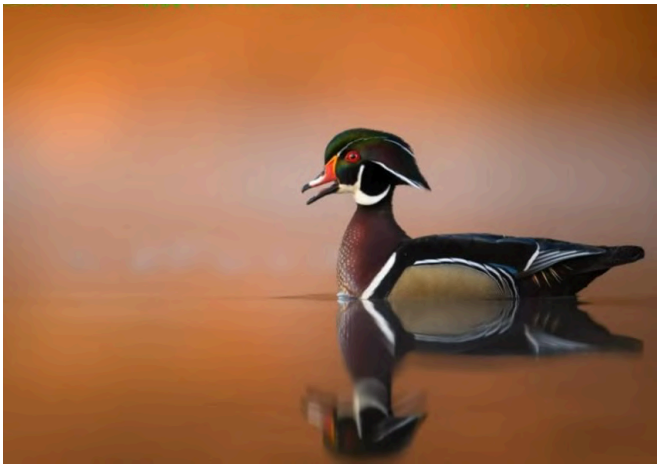
Photographing/Processing Artistic Wildlife Images with Eric Loken

Longtime CCCC member Eric Loken shared his passion for wildlife photography in last month's Members Forum. He has an amazing eye for capturing birds and animals in their natural habitat. He shared many wonderful images from his travels and showed us many useful tips for photographing and processing artistic wildlife images. He demonstrated how he exposes for, and then edits, to create high-key images and low-key images. If you missed it, you can watch the video here.



Monthly Meeting: Bird Photography
Guest Speaker, Scott Keys

Our featured speaker, Scott Keys, talked about bird photography with an emphasis on quantity vs. quality of light, types of light, changes in light and directionality. His presentation included many amazing images of avian beauty. A video of his presentation is here.



Mentor/Mentee Meeting

Prior to March's mentor meeting, each mentee submitted four photos that did not meet their desired vision. During the meeting each mentee took turns presenting their photos. They explained their inspiration, the focal point of the photo, any issues they had taking the photo and why they felt that their photo fell short. The group then discussed what they could have done differently while taking the photo and what they could possibly do to improve it through post processing. What a great way to learn!

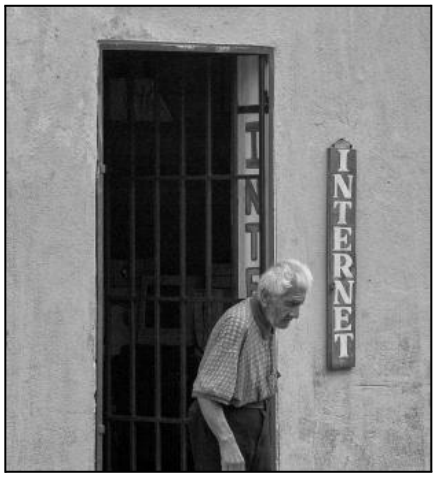
Important Announcement:
Election Day is Coming

We are happy to present our "real" slate of officers (not including Ginia and Uncle Dudley) for the next club year, and will hold an election at the May 8th meeting. Additional nominations may also be made from the floor if the following conditions are met: (a) the nomination must be seconded by another member and (b) the member being nominated must be present and state a willingness to serve.

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

March Competition - "Decay"

Whether it's peeling paint on abandoned buildings, rusted remnants of machinery, decaying flora, or the gradual erosion of once vibrant landscapes, we want to see the beauty that arises from the passage of time. Guest Judge, Richard Lewis, provided insightful comments to help us understand the success of good composition and impact, especially as the images related to the theme.



First Place ribbons were awarded to: Norman Maynard in the assigned print monochrome category for "internet", and to Sally Loken in the assigned print color category for "Old Wood".

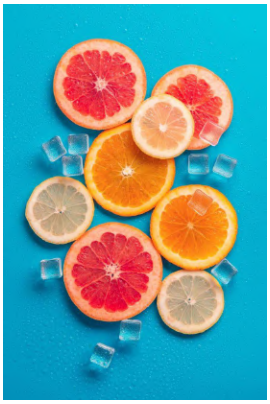
Leo Voltz earned the first place ribbon in the assigned digital monochrome category with "Walnut Hill Farm" and the first place in the assigned digital color category went to Dean Grantham for "SS America waterline".

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 - April 7

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 - April 10

The Soft Side of Color
with Buzz Mossholder

Join us for a discussion on how to use color to enhance your photos. Buzz will share tips for considering backgrounds, which colors work well together, how HSL (hue, saturation, luminance) affect your images, and some simple editing techniques to enhance colors and harmonies in your images.

Monthly Meeting - April 10

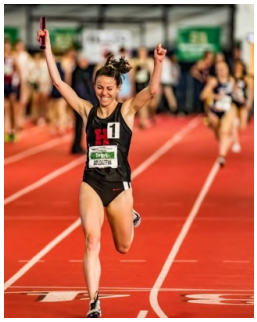
The Logistics of Competitions
Guest Speaker, Dutch Bagley

Our guest speaker this month, Dutch Bagley, is obsessed with entering photo competitions. As you can imagine, that can get pretty confusing, so he's going to share his tips for keeping everything straight, including how he decides which ones to enter, his acceptance rate, framing, printing, and last but not least, cost! If you like to enter competitions, his presentation may be very helpful. Check out his website to see some of his images.

Mentor/Mentee Meeting - April 17

With April, comes warmer weather and that urge to get outside and photograph nature, landscapes, and more. The mentees have expressed interest in taking their sessions outdoors and putting what they learned into practice, so it looks like some field trips are in the future for this group.

Upcoming Outings:



WCU Golden Ram Invitational Track Meet *April 6*

Well, Mother Nature struck again and our original outing date in March is now in April! Hopefully it will be a great day to get out and practice your sports photography. More details will be available closer to the date, so keep an eye on the website schedule page and emails for specific timing. The photo shown of a previous indoor meet is by Svenne Juul.

Dates to Remember

Sat, Apr 6	Club Outing - WCU Golden Ram Invitational Track Meet
Sun, Apr 7	Monthly Critique Group
Wed, Apr 10	Members Forum and Monthly Meeting
Wed, Apr 17	Mentor/Mentee Meeting
Sat, Apr 20	Bus Trip to NYC Central Park
Sun, Apr 21	Post-processing Zoom group
Wed, Apr 24	Monthly Competition
Fri, Apr 26	Fire Spinning Workshop

Workshop Opportunity! - limited space

Cellphone Photography Workshop - Sat, May 18

Hosted by Wayne Dixon and Fiona Keyes

CCCC Members, Wayne Dixon and Fiona Keyes, will lead an interactive and informative workshop on using your cellphone to further your photography. After gathering on the steps of the Historic Chester County Courthouse in West Chester, Wayne will introduce some photographic concepts then let everyone loose to capture some unique images. The group will then gather in a meeting room at the West Chester Public Library to share and discuss some images, and Fiona will share some of her iPhone editing creativity tips!

Those of us who have participated in one of Wayne's or Fiona's workshops in the past know how they both excel at making us understand and think about our craft of photography in new and innovative ways. Click here for a pdf of the flier about the event.

This event is limited to 15 participants so sign up early! To register, email Workshop Chairperson Jim Wilson at paddlejim48@gmail.com

This month the spotlight is shining on another long time member, ***YiJiun Chen.***

Member Spotlight

YiJiun has been a member for about ten years and shared that she hopes to have a chance to hold a volunteer role in the future.

She's been involved with photography off and on for about 20 years. A friend gifted her a camera (that's a good friend) and commented that he liked the photos she took, so she continued taking more and she's become quite accomplished over the years.

She really doesn't have a favorite type of photography and says she loves to capture what she sees; it could be anything. Lucky for her, our club offers a wide variety of topics so she's sure to find something that strikes her fancy! The image on the right was taken at a high-speed flash class at The Photography Workshop. Now that's something different!

During the past 10 or so years, YiJiun has come to love the friendliness of the group and how people are so open and willing to help, teach, and share their photography experiences. The Summer Challenge is her favorite event, and she has been an active participant for the past several years. She says it challenges her to think outside her comfort zone and she is always inspired by the creativity of other members.

Unlike many of us who are already retired and living a life of leisure, YiJiun is still a valuable and contributing member of society! She's a biologist and works for a pharmaceutical company, Additionally she also has a small private practice and works as a clinical psychotherapist. Despite her full plate, she finds time to volunteer. Previously she volunteered as a grief facilitator at Peter's Place, and she currently volunteers at Nature Land Trust whenever she has time on the weekends.

YiJiun also enjoys hiking, writing, good dining & wine, and traveling. She recently started taking Argentine Tango classes and is really enjoying it. Maybe she can show us a few steps at one of our parties!!

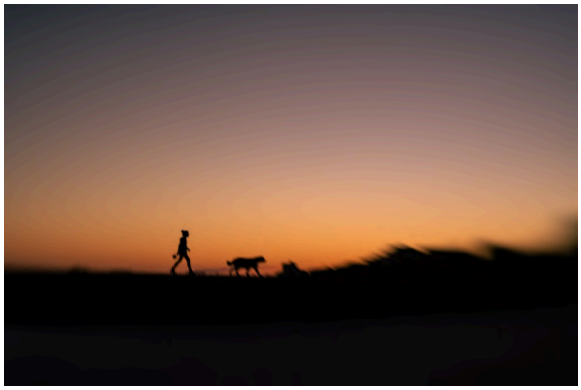
Future Spotlight Nominations?

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.

Members in the News

CCCC Members Blossom at the Philadelphia Flower Show

Congratulations to CCCC members who had images accepted into the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show! Clockwise from top left: Debbie Laverell (First Place ribbon), Nima Marsh, Debbie Laverell, Debbie Laverell (Honorable Mention), Nima Marsh, Ginia Apostolacus (Third Place ribbon).



Congratulations to **Cathy Kulhlman** who was featured in an article in Bold Journey magazine. Cathy shared her story as an artist including how she overcame obstacles to gain confidence and direction in her photo artistic journey. Her desire to succeed and willingness to "just go for it" led to her becoming an Ambassador for Lensbaby.

Cathy has an extensive website gallery of beautiful images like this one that was featured in the article.

Opportunities to Show Your Work

It's time once again for the annual Chester County in Bloom Photo Contest sponsored by County Lines Magazine. 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

The 31st Annual Phillips' Mill Photographic Exhibition takes place March 31-April 19 in New Hope. This year there is a special invite for club members to visit FREE on April 11th from 5:30-8:00 so we can mingle and network with photographers from other clubs. Be sure to RSVP to phillipsmilphoto@gmail.com and mention that you belong to CCCC. Click here for more information.

Phillips' Mill
Photographic Exhibition

Learning Opportunities

8th Creative Photography Conference

Hazel Meredith has done it again! Here's an opportunity to participate in 13 hours of virtual learning on June 22-23. If you act soon, you can get in on the early bird special price of only $39. This is sure to be a great opportunity to learn from some of today's top creative photographers!

WOW! - Photography Boot Camp I / Camera & Exposure Basics

There are only two more series of classes coming up for this Beginner Boot Camp where CCCC members can get great instruction at a special discounted price of **only $50,** normally $199.

This FUN and INTERACTIVE introductory five-session course will give you a solid understanding of exposure and your camera's most vital buttons and dials, and when and how to use them. You'll also explore essential compositional elements to help you create compelling images. If you own a DSLR or Mirrorless camera, join in this highly recommended class and unlock your photography potential! Several previous sessions sold out, so if this is something of interest, register now! **Two sessions remain and will start on May 1 and July 13!** Get discount code from Mark Bergkvist.

More info at Photography Workshop website scroll down to Winter/Spring Classes and Workshops for registration info and dates. This offer applies to Boot Camp 1 only.

Competition Tips

You've Been Framed! Or more simply put, ***"Framed"*** is this month's assigned theme. Framing in photography refers to the technique of drawing focus to the subject in the photo by blocking other parts of the image with something in the scene. Doorways, windows, arches, natural elements, or any other object or structure that can serve as a visual boundary all make great frames. If you need some inspiration or ideas, click here.

And the Last Hurrah goes to Ginia Apostolacus

For her dedication to the club over the past several years and for being such a good sport!

She probably needs a big drink after reading the opening article!

We wish her well in her upcoming “club officer” retirement.

Photo Credit: Jim Wilson