Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

June 2024 Newsletter

And the Vote is In!!

It was another landslide victory for all of our candidates for the upcoming CCCC year!

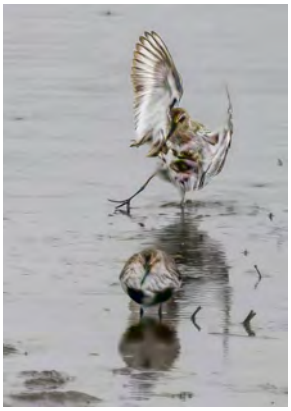
We are so very grateful for these dedicated members who are willing to give their time to help make CCCC the best camera club in the area!

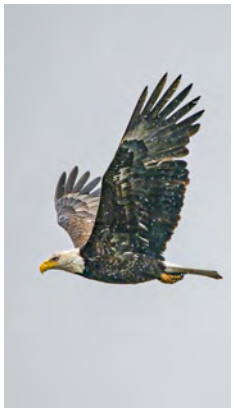
In the top row are newly elected President, Jennifer Powell, and Vice-President, Stephanie Vacek, and our returning Secretary, Carolyn Mead. The bottom row are all returning from last year: Treasurer, Helen Wagner, and our two Members at Large, Carol DeGuiseppi and Sheila Fredericks.

Several members have also stepped up to take on volunteer roles, such as leading one of our many committees. Volunteering is a great way to share your talents and become more actively involved in the club, meet new people who share a common passion, and have fun!! While many positions are filled, there's always room for more and we'd love to have you. If there is something that is especially interesting to you, reach out to one of the officers.

May Happenings:

Club Outing -Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge





A bit of drizzle didn't stop a bunch of intrepid photographers from enjoying the wildlife at Bombay Hook - known for its large collection of migrating birds. And they succeeded in getting some really good images as you can see here. (L to R): "*My Feet Are Cold!*" which was awarded a ribbon in the May competition by Marc Horton, "*Bombay Hook*" by Drew Aungst, and " *Somebody had to do the fly-by to keep the crowd happy*" by Svenne Juul. You can see more images by club members in the gallery.

Workshop - Cellphone Photography!

CCCC Members Wayne Dixon and Fiona Keyes led an interactive and informative workshop on using your cellphone to further your photography. The group was excited to learn so many unknown features to enhance images using that camera that you always have with you and fits in the palm of your hand. Then back at the Chester County Library, Wayne led a discussion of participants' favorite images, and definitely imparted a new comfort level and appreciation of using cellphones as a camera.

Quite a variety of interesting subjects were captured artistically by Pat Rhubottom in this montage of her cellphone images in West Chester.

Members Forum

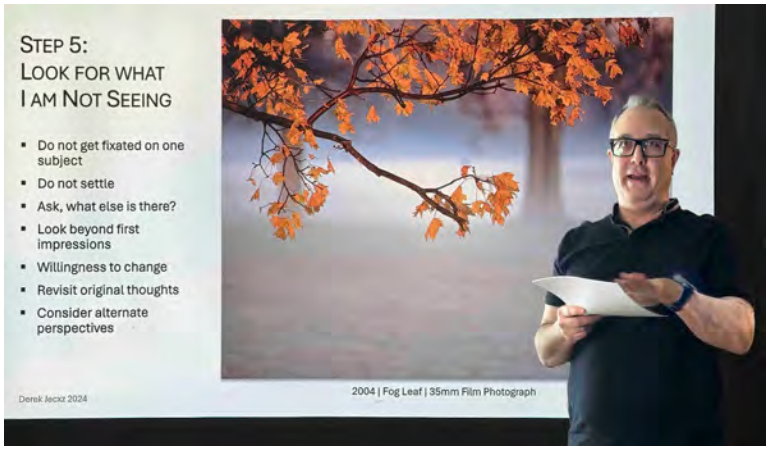
Getting the Most From Photography Workshops, Helen Wagner

Helen expertly navigated us through the process of choosing the right workshop among hundreds of options. She provided a comprehensive checklist of questions one should ask before choosing a workshop or photo tour, and provided many helpful tips to ensure a positive experience. Lots of very valuable tips! Here is a link to the video.

Monthly Meeting

The Artist Photographer, Guest Speaker, Derek Jecxz

Entertaining and insightful sums up this terrific presentation by Derek. He shared his steps to success - 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. Be sure to watch the video here.



Your camera has lots of dials and buttons, but...

- *No Dial for Creativity*
- *No Setting for Artistic*
- *No button for Inspiration*

Mentor/Mentee Meeting

At the last meeting of the club year we reviewed some basic photography principles including how to decide when to use Aperture Priority and when to use Shutter Priority on your cameras. Led by Jennifer Powell, she presented images that illustrated basic techniques. Then the group reviewed images submitted by the mentees and shared comments and ideas for improvements.

The Mentee members are sending a shout-out to Jennifer Powell for her leadership to the Mentee group this past year. She generously shared her technical expertise and approach to shooting and post-processing, which added depth of understanding to composing and executing better photographs. Thanks, Jennifer!

Post-processing Zoom Group

About ten club members gathered on the roof of the Couch Tomato in West Chester for food and talk of the trade. Thanks were offered to Buzz Mossholder for all his wisdom and hard work in teaching the others the ins and outs of Photoshop, a means, really, to explore the underlying stuff of great images. The group will continue in the fall with a new format, but with the same aim of exploring how to better post-process your way to the image you want.

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

Club Outing -FDR Skatepark (and Navy Yard)

It is always fun photographing the fast-paced athleticism of skateboarders at FDR Park, a nationally renowned skatepark. And it was quite a challenge getting into the park and finding a place to park with a lot of springtime events going on including a Phillies game. So a few CCCC photographers made a quick change in plans and opted to photograph at the nearby Philadelphia Navy Yard.

Svenne Juul captured the action of this skateboarder in a dramatic silhouette, and Marc Horton enjoyed photographing the massive ships docked at the nearby navy Yard. Check out more images in the gallery.

Do you have an idea for a club outing for next year?

Next year's Outings Coordinator Jim Wilson received some great ideas from the recent survey, but welcomes more suggestions if you have any locations on your photo bucket list. Send your ideas to Jim at paddlejim48@gmail.com

May Competition -"Is it a Painting! No - It's a Photo!"

The challenge was to create an image that blurs the lines between the 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. And our creative CCCC members used quite a variety of techniques to rise to the challenge. Judged by Karl Leck, we received a lot of valuable feedback about each image.

First Place ribbon in the assigned print category was awarded to Joe Hare for his painterly image "*Kuerner Farmhouse*", and James Samanen was awarded first place in assigned monochrome print for "*The Conversation 3*". Betsy Wilson received the blue ribbon in assigned open monochrome for "*Spirited Away*", and Richard Maynard was the first place winner in the assigned digital color category for his clever creation of "*portrait of a becoming woman*".

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".

Important Announcements:

Annual Rewards and Recognition Party - June 12

Our annual Rewards and Recognition Potluck Party is scheduled for ***Wednesday, June 12!*** This year we're moving the party to Jennifer Powell's Barn in West Grove, PA. You won't want to miss this social event of the season!! Refer to the evite you received for details and directions and RSVP yes today! We hope to see everyone there!

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."

Just look at all these smiling faces enjoying dinner after a previous group meetup. Be sure to check your email invitation and respond with a YES! You won't want to miss out on all the fun. As in the past, there will be outings in June and July, and the traditional pot-luck supper and image viewing event in August. Don't delay - say yes today!!

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Group - June 2

The Monthly Critique Group is a great way to start your summer! Get some valuable input from your peers on your print or digital images. 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 mix and mingle with fellow shutterbugs and possibly pick up some valuable tidbits along the way! Sound like this is for you? Contact Jim Samanen to get you all set up!

Upcoming Outings:

Brandywine Polo - June 7

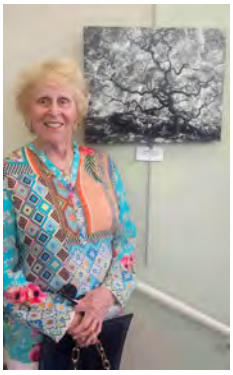
Looking for a great way to spend a Friday evening and kick off your weekend? If you are still a member of the working world, this may be the perfect TGIF event for you! The Brandywine Polo field is a great place for you to unwind and capture some fast action sports photography! The games start at 5:30.

Dates to Remember

Sun, Jun 2	Critique Group
Fri, June 7	Club Outing - Brandywine Polo
Wed, Jun 12	End of Year Party and Awards Celebration
Wed, Jun 19	Summer Challenge Outing #1 (Rain Date Wed, Jun 26)
Sat, Jul 13	Summer Challenge Outing #2 (Rain Date Sat, Jul 27)

Members in the News

Congratulations to *Carol DeGuiseppi, Lee Ann Embrey, and Debbie Laverell*, who all had images accepted into the Montgomery County Guild of Professional Artists (MCGOPA) juried photography exhibit. From left to right: Carol DeGuiseppi, 3rd place for "Looking Up;" Debbie Laverell, 1st place for "Winterthur Japanese Maple;" and while Lee Ann Embrey wasn't available for the opening reception on May 19th, here's her image of "Hogsmeade". Additionally, Carol and Debbie both had other images juried into the exhibit not shown here.



You can see their work and many others at the 431 Art Gallery at the Upper Merion Community Center, 431 Valley Forge Rd in King of Prussia through July 12.

This Month's Spotlight is shining on Sarah Staub

Long time member, Sarah Staub, is in the spotlight this month and we would like to recognize her dedication and commitment to the club. She doesn't remember exactly when she joined CCCC, but it was during the time we were still meeting at Chester County Art Association and she recalled having to carry the chairs downstairs after our meetings! That was a great meeting space, but we sure don't miss those stairs!

Sarah's father had an interest in photography and had a darkroom in the basement where he developed black and white images. She didn't share his passion at that time, but still has a piece of that equipment.

She always had a camera and would take photos on vacation or special events, but that was about it. That is, until she went to visit her daughter who had moved to Colorado. Once there, she was overwhelmed with the picturesque vistas calling out to her and begging to be captured. And she listened!

Another event that motivated Sarah and furthered her interest and passion for photography was a trip to Japan led by a native Japanese woman she knew. She took them off the beaten path and acted as a built-in interpreter for the group. Sarah said she made many, many images on that trip and three of them even were award winners in CCCC competitions.

She doesn't have a favorite type of photography and likes to shoot just about anything, except she admits to often forgetting to capture shots of her own family. She enjoys the challenge of capturing images for a specific theme or assigned topic. Two topics that she especially enjoyed were "Out to Pasture" and "Heavy Metal." She definitely doesn't like taking selfies!!

Sarah admits her biggest challenge in photography is the ever-changing technology. Our meetings, workshops, outings, and especially critiques have increased her understanding and enhanced her skills. She finds the in-person activities most productive and helpful.

Previously, Sarah was an elementary school teacher and school librarian. Additionally she has served on her church council and currently volunteers at the Brandywine Museum of Art making those adorable critters that they sell every year around the holidays.

As we all know, Sarah has a thing for hats, so one of the questions naturally was about her hats and just how many she has! Her first response was, "You must realize I'm vintage." Then she went on to share how she remembers a time when it was not uncommon to see people in hats, especially when they wore their best; back then she was like most others and owned a few hats. Then one day she bought a hat that she really liked and wore it quite a bit -- Until she lost it! She went on a search to find That Hat, or at least one like it. Well, she never found That Hat, but she keeps trying and you can see the result. She's recently put away the winter hats for the season and brought out the summer ones and she counted over sixty! Now that's a lot of hats!

New Members

Welcome to our newest members, ***Jack Butler***, ***David Mendel***, and ***Ralph Nigro***, and welcome back to ***Dick Greenwood***, who has rejoined us after a few years' hiatus! We're happy to have you all on board and we look forward to getting to know all of you in the coming months. We hope you enjoy all the club's offerings.

Competition Tips

Our monthly competitions take a break during the summer, but that doesn't mean you can't be thinking about next year! Assigned themes will be announced at the Year End Party. Another reason you should be there!!

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.

And the Last Laugh goes to

Navjot Hanspal

For being such a ham and posing during the recent cellphone workshop in West Chester. He was "modeling" as Wayne and Fiona taught participants how to use Portrait Mode on their phones.

Or perhaps he just thought the fountains needed a sculpture to draw more attention!!