Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

September 2025 Newsletter

What a Challenging Summer!

Typically, we might describe our summer break as relaxing, memorable, beachy, lazy and hazy; there are many summertime descriptors that come to mind! Here at CCCC, ***Challenging*** is a word that describes our break! The annual Summer Challenge encourages us to think outside the box and keep shooting and creating during our break.

Our new Summer Challenge leaders, Lee Ann Embrey and Mayra Talunas rose to the occasion and challenged us to create images based on the "The Secret Life of Summer" with categories of Melt, Water, Cool Down, and Bushcraft, (whatever that is!) just to name a few. Numerous club members participated in this challenging and fun activity that included outings to West Chester followed by dinner at Limoncello, and Historic Yellow Springs, with dinner at Bloom's Southern Kitchen. Members stayed connected during the summer and some new friendships were forged!

If you know us, the "end" of anything requires a party, and that's just what happened. Participants gathered at the Powell Party Barn - thanks again Jennifer and Bill - to share fotos, food, and fun! What a great relaxing way to end a "Challenging" summer! As you can see by the image here taken by Jill Nigro, a great time was had by all!

Meet Your Steering Committee:

The Steering Committee works closely with the President to transact necessary business and guide club activities. The group met over the summer to discuss plans for the upcoming year and another great season of photography at CCCC. Here's an overview of our members and their duties:

President - Jennifer Powell

The President is responsible for the overall promotion and effective operation of the club. She presides at all meetings, appoints members to chair all standing committees, forms and appoints ad hoc committees as needed, signs all written contracts, and so much more! Let's not forget the very popular end of the year party with a presentation of annual awards!

Vice President - Stephanie Vacek

In addition to being the second in command and acting as President when necessary, the VP has sole responsibility for sourcing and recruiting outside presenters for our monthly meetings. Our past speakers have been excellent and we're sure Stephanie will continue to bring quality presenters to share their knowledge with us.

Secretary -Peggy Kane

Peggy is our new secretary and is responsible for taking detailed notes at the steering committee meetings. Announcements made at monthly meetings can be viewed by watching the meeting recording posted on the website.

Treasurer - Helen Wagner

The treasurer is our money manager, bill payer, checkbook holder, banker, and accountant who keeps track of all club funds, and makes an annual financial report to the Steering Committee. Luckily Helen has a background in Finance and is very knowledgeable on all things money-related!

Members at Large -
Carol DeGuiseppi and Sheila Fredericks

The two Members at Large attend all Steering Committee meetings as representatives of the club as a whole. Along with the Past President, they make up the nominating committee for new candidates and run the annual elections in a fair and unbiased manner.

Webmaster - Betsy Wilson

The Webmaster is exactly what it sounds like - Master of the Website! Some of the Webmaster's duties include posting monthly competition results, information about speakers, programs, outings, and other miscellaneous information, as well as creating galleries for members to post images from our outings.

Competitions Chair and Immediate Past-President
- Denise Molzahn

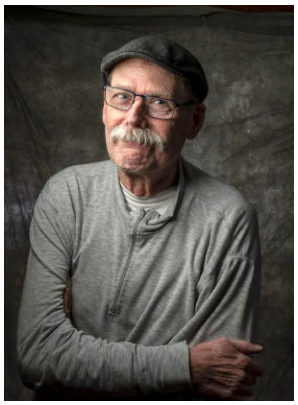
From picking the themes for monthly competitions, finding great judges, presiding over the monthly competitions, and calculating the results for the Photographer of the Year awards, the Competitions Chairperson is a very busy person! The Immediate Past President serves as chairperson of the nominating committee and helps to run the election of officers.

Membership Chairperson - To Be Named

The first point of contact for new members is often the Membership Chairperson who arranges for new members to be onboarded to the club, serves as a greeter at each meeting and serves as an information resource for new members and visitors. A great way to get involved and meet new people! Interested? Let Jennifer know!

Members Forum - Anette Karlsson

Most monthly meetings start out with a presentation by a club member or a membership participation activity. This allows our members to showcase their talents and share ideas with other members. Chaired by Anette, she has lined up a terrific variety of CCCC members to inspire fellow members.



Outings Chairperson - Jim Wilson

One of the many benefits of our club are the variety of outings available to members and guests. The behind the scenes planning and scheduling by the Outings Chairperson ensure we have options for outside (and inside) photo shoots at local and regional venues. Advance promotions and announcements, coordination of carpools, special admission arrangements, and opportunities to post images of the outings, are just a few ways the chairperson helps ensure our outings are a success.

Technical and Creative Exchange - Ralph Nigro

Formerly called the mentor program, this monthly meeting provides members of all levels of experience to help one another learn technical basics as well as creative techniques to improve their photography. Each month starts out with a specific focus area, but every meeting provides opportunities to get answers to all your photography questions.

Our team of dedicated volunteers is committed to supporting and promoting the mission of the Chester County Camera Club, which is to educate, encourage, and expand the photographic knowledge and capabilities of its members. Have a question or suggestion about the club? Feel free to reach out to anyone on the CCCC Steering Team.

In addition to the Steering Committee, there are many other active volunteers who help out with the club, including Critique Group coordinator **Jim Samanen**, Workshop Leader **Wayne Dixon**, Post-Processing Zoom leader **Buzz Mossholder**, and other volunteers who work to keep the club successful! Click here to see a list of all volunteers.

Summer Happenings:

Critique Groups

This active group doesn't miss a beat and meets during the summer months. The Zoom group was hosted by Ginia Apostolacus, and the in-person critique group was graciously hosted by Norman Maynard. Participants shared their prints 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.

Summer Challenge Meetup at Historic Yellow Springs

Led by Mayra Talunus, our second summer meetup was to the Historic Village of Yellow Springs, site of a Revolutionary War Hospital, and later a center for studying art, history, and the environment.

After wandering around the beautiful and quaint village, we headed over to Bloom Restaurant in Eagle to enjoy cool drinks and dinner.

Pop-up Outing to the

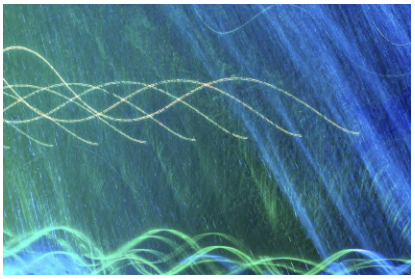
Threshermen's Reunion in Lancaster County

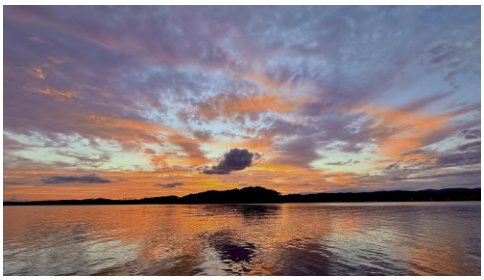
The weather looked good for a late addition to the outings schedule for the Annual Threshermen's Reunion at the Rough and Tumble Museum and Grounds in scenic Lancaster County. Impressed by the variety of photographic subjects, photographers enjoyed taking pictures of antique farm equipment, working steam-powered tractors, closeup compositions of rust and gears, and local families enjoying the food and fun events of the day.

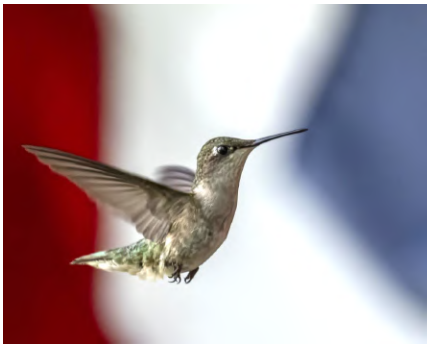
A sampling of images from the day, clockwise: Ralph Nigro, Buzz Mossholder, Patricia Verbovszky, Chris Calhoun. Click here to see the gallery with more images.

Summer Challenge Potluck and Screening Party

Always a highlight of the summer when participants in the Summer Challenge gather for a potluck party and share their images!







A great group of photographers signed up for the annual Summer Challenge - what fun! The challenge was topped off with a celebration and screening of the images at the wonderful Party Barn of Jennifer and Bill Powell. Happy photographers celebrated with good food and lots of laughter.

Thank you to Lee Ann Embrey and Mayra Talunas for coordinating the Summer Challenge and coming up with the fun "Secret Life of Summer" topics.

Top row: *Bushcraft* by Ginia Apostolacus, *Escape* by Bob Friedman, *Water* by Carol DeGuiseppi. Second row; *Melt* by Lee Ann Embrey, *Golden Hour* by Matt Keller, *Cool Down* by Annete Karlsson. Third row: *Flight* by Nima Marsh, *Slow* by Anita Bower, *Local Flavor* by Jennifer Powell, and at bottom, *Texture*, by Scott Ashenfelter.

To see all the images in this year's challenge, go to the CCCC website and click on the header "Galleries", then click on" Club Outings and Events". Scroll down to "2024-2025 Club Year", then click on the little triangle on the left side next to "Summer Challenge", and enjoy!

Renew Your Membership!

It's time to renew your CCCC membership for another year of photo fun! The good news is, there's no inflation here - our dues are remaining the same. What a great deal for all the benefits we get - guest speakers, member presentations, education and inspiration, outings, workshops, and more! Click here for the renewal form. It's quick and easy, and can be done all on-line,but remember, it's a 2-step process. Fill out the registration form, then submit your payment.

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Groups - *September 7*

It's a new CCCC season, so why not do something new for your photography. The monthly Critique Groups consist of dedicated photographers who meet both in person and via zoom, typically on the first Sunday of each month. If you're looking for a way to share your work and benefit from constructive input and inspiration from your peers, contact Jim Samanen and he'll get you all set up.

Welcome Back Meeting - *Wednesday, September 10*

Join us for the first meeting of the new club year, which will have a different format this month. Rather than the customary Members' Forum, we'll have a general meeting with announcements and a review of some basic information, including competition details and how to navigate our website. There will be ample time for mixing, mingling, and getting re-acquainted.

Ron Wyatt is our Guest Speaker this evening.

He's a professional sports photographer, who is known for his work with major sports leagues like the NBA, NFL, and MLB, as well as covering two Summer Olympic Games. If you'd like to learn more about Ron and his extensive portfolio, you can check out his site.

Technical and Creative Exchange (*Mentor Meeting*) *Wednesday, September 17*

The Mentor/Mentee Meeting has evolved into so much more - it's not just for Mentees anymore! Hence, the name change to make it reflect what it actually is, an exchange of ideas and knowledge for everyone! Ralph Nigro (group leader) and Tom Wishaar have been collaborating over the summer to develop a schedule of meaningful topics for everyone.

Post Processing Group, September 21

Buzz Mossholder will continue with his interactive zoom sessions, explaining how to use lightroom and photoshop tools, which many have found very helpful. These sessions are all about what you want to learn, and Buzz creates his lessons based on input from members. In this session, Buzz will explain the most recent changes to Lightroom and Photoshop. What a great way to stay up to date with the new technology! Contact Buzz Mossholder if you're interested.

Upcoming Outings:

***Kuerner Farm* - Sunday, September 14 (Full with a wait list)**

You know it's going to be a great outing when all the spots fill up on the first day! Our very own Andrew Wyeth expert, Steve Whitney, has arranged for special access to Kuerner Farm in Chadds Ford, where many of Wyeth's most well known paintings were created. We'll be able to wander and photograph throughout the farm at our own pace. If you missed the registration, and would like to be added to the wait list in the event a spot opens up, contact Jim Wilson.

***Bryn Athyn Cathedral* - Friday, September 19**

Get those wide angle lenses out and get ready for some amazing architectural photography! We'll visit the historic Bryn Athyn Cathedral both inside and out - there are magnificent stained glass windows inside.

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendar!

Sun Sept 7	Critique Groups
Wed, Sept 10	Welcome Back Meeting with Guest Speaker, Ron Wyatt
Sun, Sept 14	Kuerner Farm (Full with wait list)
Wed, Sept 17	Technical and Creative Exchange (Formerly known as Mentor Meeting)
Fri, Sept 19	Club Outing - Bryn Athyn Cathedral
Sun, Sept 21	Post Processing Group
Wed, Sept 24	Monthly Competition
Sun, Oct 5	Club Outing Grounds for Sculpture
Sun, Oct 5	Critique Groups

The Member Spotlight is shining on Mayra Talunas this month!

Welcome Back! Mayra originally joined CCCC back in 2017 and then took a hiatus of several years. She must have missed us, as she re-joined last year and has been an active participant ever since!

Mayra didn't hesitate when the opportunity to be involved with the Summer Challenge was presented to her. She wanted to get involved and jumped in feet first and joined forces with Lee Ann Embrey to lead their first (and very successful) summer challenge. She's looking forward to more volunteer opportunities within the club in the future, especially after she retires.

Mayra shared that she's always loved photography and bought her first 35mm Nikon FE camera in 1981. "*Back then, my dream job would have been working for National Geographic or as a fashion photographer. Both combined my two biggest passions: travel and photography.*"

When Mayra was asked if she's grown or been inspired by CCCC members, she didn't hesitate and responded, "*Absolutely! I learn something new at every meeting and through conversations with other members. There's a real wealth of knowledge in the club, and it's helped expand my technical skills and spark my creativity.*

Unlike many of us who are retired, Mayra is still gainfully employed for a global travel technology company. She started as a systems engineer 26 years ago and later led teams in sales engineering, consulting, and account management.

Mayra admits to being struck by wanderlust in her early 20s, and her love of travel has never really gone away. How fortunate that she works in the travel industry, gets to travel the world, gets paid for it, and takes some amazing photographs along the way.

Her favorite genres of photography are portraits and street photography. This summer she had an amazing and unforgettable experience of attending a photography workshop in Rome with Steve McCurry, photographer of the very famous and recognizable Afghan Girl. Way to combine two of your passions, Maya!

Learning Opportunities

Lightroom Virtual Summit 2025 - September 15-19

This summit features 17 expert instructors teaching 45 classes over 34 hours of content - all from the convenience of your home!

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!

Opportunities to Show Your Work

Philadelphia Flower Show 2026 has officially announced the Artistic Classes for the 2026 show, which will be held February 28-March 8. Don't miss out on the chance to have your image(s) accepted and displayed at this prestigious annual show. Full rules are now available in the 2026 Exhibitor's Guide. Click here for a list of the categories and you may submit images starting September 17.

Streets of Philadelphia Exhibit

Prism Arts Philadelphia is looking for photographers—seasoned pros, emerging artists, and passionate streetwalkers with a camera or cellphone in hand—to submit work for "Streets of Philadelphia," a curated group show dedicated to the raw, un-staged beauty of life in our city. Click here for more info.

Competition Tips:

Our monthly competitions are back and the theme for September is **Local Landscape/Culture.** We are so fortunate to live in beautiful Chester County, where award-winning photos are right outside our front door! Here's a link that also has ideas and inspiration for the themes.

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 Ralph Nigro's wife, Jill!

Not even a member of the Camera Club, but with this agility and determination to get a great group shot at the Summer Challenge Party, she should be!

Photos by Ginia Apostolacus and Judy Smith