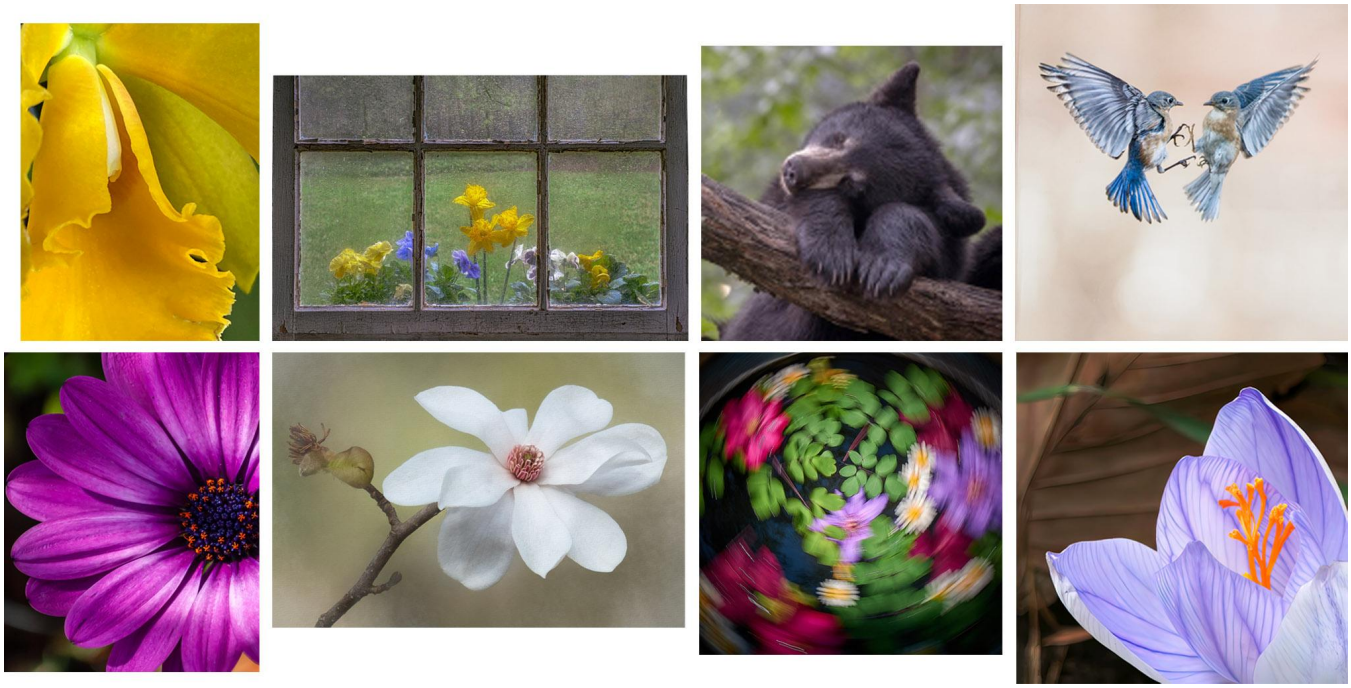
Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

March 2023 Newsletter

Spring is in the Air!



Clockwise from top left: Dean Grantham, Lois Mauro, Mary Malinconico, Navjot Hanspal, Douglas Cinoman, Arvid Bloom, Nima Marsh, George Kunberger.

The very scientific methods of Puxatawny Phil called for six more weeks of winter, which means spring will be here in mid-March! We all know that the official first day of Spring, or the Vernal Equinox, is always around March 20, so regardless of what Dr. Phil says, spring will be here soon. Vernal translates to *new* and *fresh*, and Equinox is derived from the Latin *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night). As photographers, all we need to know is that there will be new and fresh buds, flowers, and landscapes; March 20 will see equal hours of daylight and nighttime, but every day after that will start getting longer, meaning more daylight hours for outdoor photography! Enough of a science lesson - let's embrace spring, warmer weather, fresh flowers, greener landscapes, and the longer days to get out and shoot! Just Look at this collage of beautiful spring images by CCCC members from past spring seasons for inspiration.

January Highlights:

Club Outing:

Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum

The Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum is one of the world's greatest collections of racing sports cars. Club members enjoyed viewing and photographing these classic cars both inside the museum, and at some special outdoor events. A few monochrome images from the gallery above demonstrate the unique beauty of these extraordinary vehicles as taken by Douglas Cinoman, John Dolph and Eva Connor.
Be sure to check out the gallery for more images.

Members Forum - *Portrait Posing - Do's and Don'ts*

Ginia Apostolacus shared many tips for taking good portrait photos. How do we get good photos of people? We often get asked to take photos for individuals, groups or families. Ginia shared her expertise and many wonderful images of some of the poses that flatter folks and what are poses that do not. If you missed it, you can watch the presentation on youtube.

Monthly Meeting *Lewis Katz - Perspective and Perception*

"In the same way that your camera captures the light being reflected, my photography reflects who I am and all of the experiences of my life".

Baltimore-based Lewis Katz delved into the subject of how we as photographers perceive the composition in our viewfinder and how by altering our perspective, even slightly, the image will become more emotional, dramatic and powerful, both to the viewer as well as the photographer.

He shared many images having a strong emotional connection to the subject, and a shift in perspective. Katz discussed and demonstrated the myth of style and how searching for it is actually hindering your own creative process. You can see more of his images on his website.

Mentor Meeting - HDR Photography Basics

Presented by Matt Keller

The higher dynamic range your camera has, the closer the photo will compare to what an eye can see. This means that you'll be able to capture more details in the shadows that might otherwise appear pure black, and you'll be able to see details in the highlights that might otherwise be washed out with white. Matt Keller spelled it all out for us in easy-to-understand steps, and shared some outstanding images that provided inspiration to learn and include this technique in our photo toolbox. Click here to view a pdf of Matt's informative and inspirational presentation.

February Competition

The assigned theme was “Soft Focus”. Guest Judge Bob Lyons provided insightful comments and helpful tips for improving images. Very instructional session!

In the assigned category, first place color went to “Oregon Coastline”, by Susan Lowry Hare and Valerie Dunn earned the blue ribbon in monochrome for “Just Visiting”

In the Open Category, Jennifer Powell took first place in color for “Kink in my Neck” , and first place in monochrome went to “Freetown Resident - Antigua”, by Wendy Summer.

Congratulations to the First Place winners!

To see all images in the competition, go to [Competitions / Competitions Results](#) on the CCCC website, then choose the competition (four categories) and be sure to check the little box “Display all images”.

Upcoming Events:

Reminder: Most meetings and events typically held at Westminster Presbyterian Church will be both in-person and virtual March through June. We hope to see you back in-person at Westminster!

Monthly Critique Group - March 5

Spring is a time of rebirth and renewal, and that can apply to life in general or more specifically, to your photography. Now is the perfect time to join this members only group where you'll get critiques and inspiration from your peers. This group, which meets both in person and via Zoom, could be just what you need for spring! Contact Jim Samanen; he'll get you all set up!

Members Forum - March 8

Everybody is a Portrait Photographer!

Both in-person and zoom

Join us for an interactive session where everyone gets involved. We'll share our portrait images and discuss what we learned about the process of taking portraits. You can refer back to Ginia's February presentation on youtube if you need some inspiration and pointers. Be on the lookout for instructions to upload your images.

Monthly Meeting - March 8

Still Life - Beyond Fruit Bowls and Flowers with Betsy Wilson

Both in-person and zoom

Join us as CCCC member, Betsy Wilson, shares the world of still life photography through her unique perspective. Unlike landscape or street photography, the photographer is in complete control! Learn how she uses her artistic skills to take a mundane subject out of its normal habitat and transform it into something of beauty. She will share images of both traditional subjects as well as unusual, sometimes whimsical ones. This is perfect timing to prepare for the upcoming assigned competition subject in April, which will be *Still Lifes*.

Mentor/Mentee Meeting - *March 15*

Night Photography presented by Svenne Juul

In-Person Only

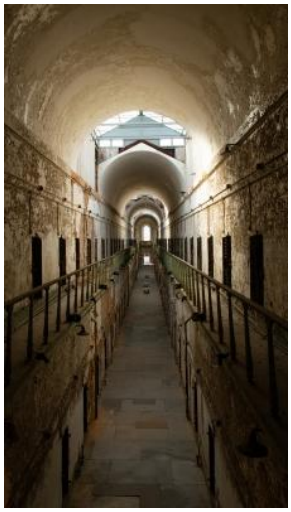
Join us as Svenne Juul presents on the popular genre of Night Photography. He will share some tips and techniques for getting attractive images where there is very little light to work with. Svenne's image shown here was made during a previous camera club outing.

This friendly gathering also provides opportunities for less-experienced photographers to get personalized instruction and tips from more-experienced members.

March Outings:

Valley Forge National Park - *March 4*

Whether you're a history buff or just someone who appreciates wandering around in nature, Valley Forge will surely have some wonderful photo opportunities for you. And it's so close to home!! This image, by Joe Hare, was from a February 2021 outing. Based on our recent crazy weather, snow is a possibility! If you want to know more about VF before the outing, check out their website.



Eastern State Penitentiary - *March 18*

Eastern State Penitentiary was once the most famous and expensive prison in the world. It set a new standard for prison design that was replicated in many countries. It stands today in ruin, a haunting world of crumbling cell blocks and empty guard towers, perfect for grunge photography. Tripods are welcome for an additional fee. If you want to learn more visit their website.

Upcoming Workshops:

Flash Lighting Workshop - March 12 *Waitlist only*

Flash can add the perfect amount of light to your subject, making an ordinary image pop. Both indoors and out, knowing the basics of adding a basic flash will enhance any type of portrait, even those family holiday shots.
CCCC members Peter Guman, Mark Bergkvist, Ginia Apostolacus and Jim Wilson will demystify the basics, and will give live demonstrations. Then, attendees will get in the action themselves, both in-front of and behind the camera!

This workshop is full, but sign-up for the waitlist to learn how to perfectly light and pose people to create compelling portraits like this one by Peter Guman, who is the coordinator for this workshop. See the calendar listing for details -a members-only event.

Still Life Workshop - April 1

Filled up in one day with a waitlist! If there is more interest, a second workshop will be added the same day in the afternoon, so go ahead and register!

From traditional to whimsical, everyone will have the opportunity to photograph still life set-ups and practice composition and lighting to make wonderful images. Join us for a fun hands-on workshop about everything still life, including floral set-ups and product photography. Program leaders Betsy Wilson, Carol DeGuiseppi and Ginia Apostolcus will start with a short presentation covering the basics of how to set-up and photograph your still life, along with some inspirational examples to get the creative juices flowing. Everyone can experiment with shooting some already set-up compositions, and have fun creating your own still lifes using a wide variety of table-top items to arrange and light as you wish. As the assigned competition topic for the April 26 meeting is Still Life, the timing is perfect to give everyone tips and ideas to create an award-winning image!

Advance sign-up required. See schedule listing for details.

Dates to Remember

Sat, Mar 4	Club Outing - Valley Forge National Park
Sun, Mar 5	Critique Group
Wed, Mar 8	Members Forum and Monthly Meeting
Sun, Mar 12	Lighting Workshop
Sun, Mar 12	Post Processing Group
Wed, Mar 15	Mentor/Mentee Meeting
Sat, Mar 18	Club Outing - Eastern State Penitentiary
Wed, Mar 22	Monthly Competition

Upcoming Exhibits

What better way to welcome spring than attending the Philadelphia Flower Show as it returns to the month of March and indoors at the Philadelphia Convention Center. If you go, be sure to check out the Photo exhibit - you may just see some images with familiar names of CCCC members!

New Members

We have two new members this month, ***Jeff Chapman*** *and* ***Lee Sagula.*** We're delighted you are joining our group of happy and creative photographers. We look forward to getting to know you both and your photographic styles in the coming months.

Members in the News

Robert Becker had a nice surprise when he read through the February issue of the Professional Photographer, the PPA monthly publication. The PPA promoted the new Merit Image Review program, and they used his image that was submitted in the 2022 IPC. Nice to see that PPA wanted to represent this new program using his image!

Long, long time club member, Matt Keller, is in the spotlight this month.

Volunteer Spotlight

Matt has been an active member of CCCC for 15 years, which may possibly put him in the running for one of the oldest (er, long-time) members! He was gifted a membership in January 2008 by some very good friends, and has been a member since.

He currently serves as a mentor in our very popular Mentor/Mentee group and recently presented on HDR photography, hopefully clearing up some confusion for mentees and others as well. Previously he operated the laptop for the competitions for several years and was the chair of the tech committee for a few years. We also have Matt to thank for reconstructing the light box that is used for the print competitions.

Matt has been involved with photography off and on since childhood, including a class in high school. I guess you could say he got the bug in 2004 when he became serious about it and has been improving ever since. His favorite genre is landscape, as evidenced by his wonderful images that he shared in his HDR presentation, and also those of the wild, wild west that have won numerous competitions. Additionally, he enjoys surreal works inspired by people like Jerry Uelsmann and Storm Thorgerson.

When Matt was asked how he has grown or been inspired by CCCC members, this was his response..... *"Good grief, I've benefited so much from being a member! I've learned so many new techniques, and I've grown as a photographer and a person. I've made many, many great friendships."*

Matt is currently a Principal Software Engineer at a Philly financial technology company, so it makes perfect sense that his volunteer roles in the club are all focused on technology! His professional commitments occupy much of his time and limit the time he can volunteer for other organizations, so he donates to a variety of causes instead.

Another hobby that keeps Matt busy is model building, especially model railroading. He loves animals, and his fur babies, Tiger and Bella also keep him very busy at home.

In closing, Matt wanted to extend a huge thank you to everyone in the club!

Learning Opportunities

When you're not sure of a certain technique, or just want to learn something new, Google is a great place to start. We googled "free photography tutorials" and a great resource popped up. It looks like they actually are all free, but of course there's an option for a subscription! Here's the link that will take you to a varied list of topics.

Competition Tips

"Composites" is the assigned theme for March, and will allow for your creativity to run wild! Composite photography refers to images created by combining elements from two or more images into one final composition, with many creative outcomes available, as in this first-place award winning image called "Stacks" by Carolyn Mead. You can find helpful information and inspiration for all our monthly themes here.

Remember: all elements in the image must be your original work, with a basic texture being the only exception.

Website Wisdom:

Your Image History - Don't remember what you entered into a previous competition? Maybe you won a ribbon but can't remember when? Check out your Image History by clicking on My Account / My Image History. Be sure you are logged in first!

Be sure to regularly check the CCCC Homepage for news and updates, as well as 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 hurrah goes to.....

Ginia Apostolacus

for her recent Members' Forum presentation where she stressed the importance of patience during a portrait shoot.....

and the moral of the story is.....

.....patience pays off!!