Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

November 2025 Newsletter

Hello Autumn!!

Red and yellow leaves falling from the trees, fall flowers, pumpkins, golden streams, football and cheerleaders jumping in the air - even the fish are happy among the colorful fallen leaves! A common thread in these images is they all conjure up thoughts of autumn. You can almost hear the rustling of leaves and smell the crispness of November as you meander along a park or garden path. What a great time to get out with your camera and capture the beauty that is all around us!

Let's not forget Thanksgiving, the official start to the annual holiday season (unless you consider it to be Halloween) when comforting and nostalgic aromas surround us when we enter the kitchen! It's a great time to give thanks for all we have- we at CCCC give thanks to all of you, our members for all you do and for making our club one of the best around.

Happy Autumn and Happy Thanksgiving!

Pictured above: Top row: Duane Erdmann, Valerie Dunn, Howard Sundwall.
Bottom row: Matt Mclaughlin, Scott Ashenfelter, Jerry Snyder.

October Happenings:

Club Outing-Grounds for Sculpture

It is always fun to see how photographers in the same location find their own unique perspective while shooting the same subject. After the gang posed for the group shot under the enormous statue "A Turn of the Century" at the Visitor Center, photographers created their own images - a "film noir" interpretation by Svenne Juul, a painterly rendition by Betsy Wilson, and a great use of selected focus by Helen Stevenson who made the flowers the star of the show...and even managed to capture a monarch butterfly in flight!

And two very different perspectives of the giant statue "The Awakening". Lee Ann Embrey captured the entirety, while Jennifer Powell chose to zoom in on the emotion of the face.

CCCC Photographers enjoyed exploring the amazing sculptures which seemed to be everywhere, and in some unexpected places! Check the gallery for more images.

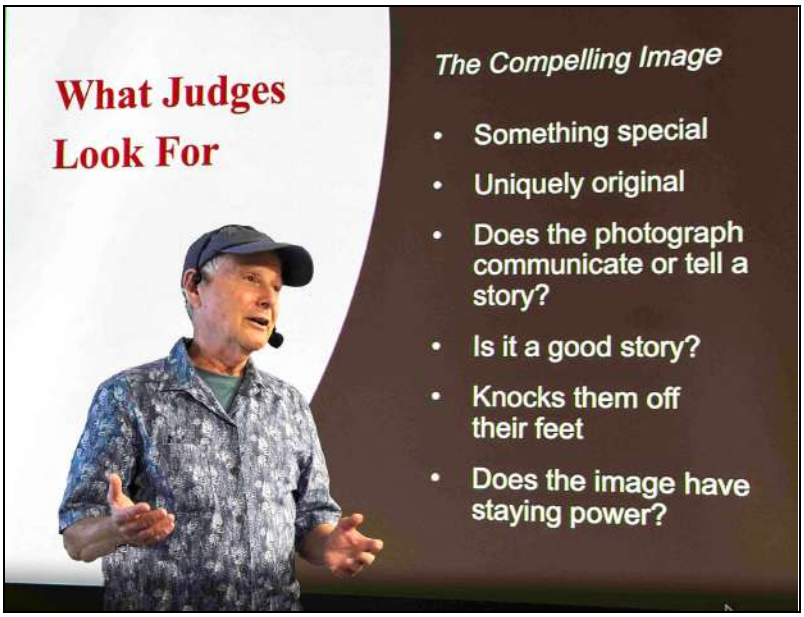
Critique Groups

The October zoom session was hosted by Svenne Juul. 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.

Club Workshop: "One Thing - A Photographers Workshop"

On September 27 we kicked off our first photography workshop, led by Wayne Dixon. This was a creativity workshop based on just selecting "One Thing" to bring as the primary focus. The attendees presented what they captured, and shared their artistic conception and process with the class. The feedback from the attendees was positive. What a great way to start the Camera Club season.

Presentation: Richard Lewis - "What Judges Look for in Competitions and Exhibitions"



This was a fun, yet very frank look at the hardest job any photographer can do... judging! In this workshop Rich Lewis examined both the objective and subjective things that make a photograph great and exhibition worthy.

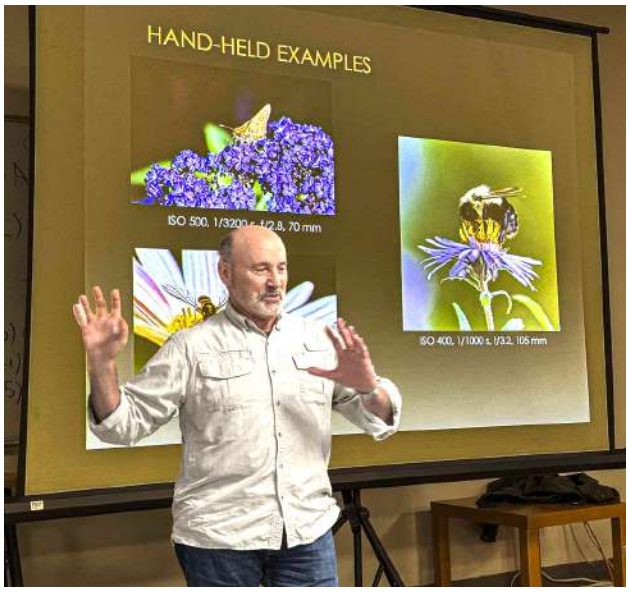
And the audience had fun as they had the opportunity to judge some of Rich's work, the work of other participants, and even the work of the photography masters. We all learned that the perfect photograph doesn't need to be perfect if it does what the photographer intended.

Watch the presentation here.

Post Processing Zoom Meeting

Buzz Mossholder shared lots of tips on how to use selection tools in photoshop, including difficult selections like skies. Buzz demonstrated the new tools, and edited some images showing the step-by-step process, while answering questions from the group along the way.

If you missed it, you can watch the YouTube video here



Technical and Creative Exchange

Ralph Nigro began the meeting with a presentation of the technical aspects of everything macro and close-up photography. This was a terrific primer on everything one needs to know to get those really up-close and personal images. Then everyone had a chance to try out what they learned, with lots of fun things to photograph, and plenty of members willing to help other members and exchange ideas. What a great way to learn and meet people! You can watch the recorded presentation on macro basics here.

October Competition - "Panning Perfection"

The challenge was to experiment with the art of panning photography, capturing a subject in motion while keeping it sharp against a blurred background. Guest judge Warren Hatch, 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 Wendy Summer for "Running and Relaxing" in the color projected category, and to Eric Loken for "Brandywine Point to Point" in the monochrome projected category. In prints, the blue ribbon went to Jennifer Powell for "Passing on Left".

In the open categories, First place ribbons went David Ward for "East Indian Lotus" in monochrome print, to James Samanen for "Eye to Eye" in color print, and to Wendy Summer for "Not Everyone's Smiling in digital monochrome and also for "I'm for Truth" in color projected.

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"

Outing - Laurel Hill Cemetery

A large group enjoyed a beautiful autumn day at historic Laurel Hill East Cemetery in Philly. The cemetery is on 74 acres overlooking the Schuylkill River and includes over 33,000 grave sites with many dating back to its founding in 1836. It is a National Historic Landmark and also an accredited arboretum. And we had the added surprise of watching a rowing regatta practice on the Schuylkill River below us.

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

Important Announcements - Save the Date!

Holiday Party - Saturday, December 13

Our annual Holiday Party will once again be at the very-popular Powell Party Barn. More details will be provided as we get closer, but be sure to get this on your calendar.

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 - November 2

With the weather getting cooler, you may be looking for creative indoor activities on a Sunday afternoon. Why not give our very popular monthly Critique Groups a try, where dedicated and enthusiastic photographers meet both in person and via zoom to share their work and receive input and inspiration from their peers. Contact Jim Samanen and he'll get you all set up.

Technical and Creative Exchange (Mentor Meeting) Wednesday, November 5

Lenses can be so confusing! Which one to use for certain effects? Do I need more lenses? We'll try to de-mystify lenses and get down to basics. We'll discuss a little bit of the science behind modern lenses (no quiz involved), and how things like depth-of-field, focal length, aperture, and sensor size are all related.

Members' Forum - Wednesday, November 12

Sports Photography, presented by Tom Weishaar

Join us for our first Member's Forum of the year as Tom speaks to us about Sports Photography. He doesn't follow sports and says that he is not even a sports fan. He follows the light and the action, along with the emotions that define them. This talk reveals how a non-fan sports photographer can capture the passion and grit that put cleats on fields and sneakers on courts.

Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, November 12

Every Picture Tells a Story with Ted Goldman

We're happy to welcome back Ted Goldman to share how modern art inspires and informs his photography, which he will illustrate with a virtual street photography photo walk!

Post Processing Group - Sunday, November 16

Buzz Mossholder hosts these interactive zoom sessions explaining how to use lightroom and photoshop tools. The group told Buzz they wanted more demonstrations and instructions on full edits, so that is what they will do! Tune in for a start-to-finish Contact Buzz Mossholder if you're interested.

Upcoming Outings:

Philadelphia Navy Yard **- *Saturday, November 8***

Our outing to the Navy Yard a few years ago was such a hit, we're going again! Ships, old buildings, new buildings, reflections.....there's something for everyone. You won't want to miss this one!

Night Sky Outing **- *Saturday, November 22 (Cloud date, Sunday, 11/23)***

Here is your chance to practice your night sky photography. We will be led by Svenne Juul and Ginia Apostolacus as we travel to a local dark location and photograph star trails and maybe even some Milky Way. While Ginia can't take credit for this image by her brother, George Kiselica, she was there when it happened! More details will be provided as we get closer, so keep an eye out for announcements.

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendar!

Sat, Nov 8	Club Outing - Navy Yard
Sun, Nov 2	Critique Groups
Wed, Nov 5*	Technical and Creative Exchange
Wed, Nov 12	Members' Forum and Monthly Meeting
Sun, Nov 16	Post-processing Group
Wed, Nov 19*	Monthly Competition
Sat, Nov 22	Club Outing - Night Sky Outing
Sat, Dec 6	Yuletide at the Renaissance Faire
Sat, Dec 13	Holiday Party

* These dates have been adjusted due to the Thanksgiving Holiday

Seth Koss is in the spotlight this month!

Seth has been a member of CCCC for two years and says he's very grateful to Jim Samanen for telling him about the club and encouraging him to join.

He has enjoyed taking photos of beautiful landscapes since he was a teenager, especially in mountainous regions. Then in 2015 he started backpacking the John Muir Trail in the high Sierras of California- taking 3 summers to hike the 214 miles ending at the top of Mount Whitney- the highest point in the continental US. *"It was along that trail that I found myself tearing up from the beauty and remoteness I was experiencing- and I kept trying to capture it photographically. This got me interested in using more than just a point and shoot camera and to start using wide angle lenses."*

Being a Family Physician, and then transitioning to a full time Physician Acupuncturist made Seth realize the importance of connecting to the natural world as a means of healing and well being and wanted to bring his experiences in nature into his office space. He started taking the one good photo out of literally thousands he would take on a trip (we can all relate to this), enlarge it, frame it, and hang it on the walls of his office. His office walls soon became filled with images from his travels and they became something patients would identify with and enjoy. *"It was my hope it would inspire patients to go out more into nature themselves and take in the beauty that is all around us."*

At least once a year, Seth tries to go to a remote natural location (now it's usually an instructional photography trip) to really connect with nature and feel present in the natural world. *"I love the feeling of looking through my view finder and having my mind get really quiet as I try to capture the beauty around me."* In addition to remote areas of the US, he's been to Patagonia, Northern Nepal, Bhutan, parts of Africa including Namibia, Botswana and Uganda, China, Norway, Western Canada and Iceland.

As you may have gathered, Seth is passionate about travel, nature, and landscape photography. His four kids are grown and in their 20's, so he and his wife have more freedom to travel to all these amazing locales

"I have loved being a part of the CCCC. I find everyone warm and kind and inspiring. I love the guest speakers, learning in the mentors group and most of all seeing everyone's work in the competitions. In just two years I feel much clearer on what makes a truly great photograph although I personally feel far from achieving it. But I am loving the growth and the opportunity to practice. It is just so fun!" And that is what it's all about - learning and fun!!

New Members

A warm welcome to ***Jennifer Hahn***, ***Jill Semmer***, ***Lisa Suchower***, and ***Clinton Wolfe*** who have all joined us during the month of October. We're so happy to have you and look forward to getting to know all of you and your photographic styles in the coming months.

Members in the News

Congratulations to **Jim Samanen!** His photo "*Partial Melt on the Schuylkill River*" was accepted into the Wayne Art Center's 2025 Fall Members Juried Exhibition, which runs from October 13 through November 17th. Check it out!

Jim has been busy behind the lens and will feature a number of new images at these upcoming holiday shows:

The 2025 Holiday Arts & Fine Craft Show, sponsored by the Haverford Guild of Craftsmen, on Saturday and Sunday, November 8-9 at the Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center (CREC) 9000 Parkview Drive, Haverford PA. Check the link for details.

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

Atala Toy will have a featured art photography exhibit at the Crosslands Community Center in Kennett Square in the Center Art Wall. "Stories Trees Tell Us: Making the Unseen Seen Art Photography" by Atala Toy will be on display Nov 13 through Jan 7.

Betsy Wilson will also have a display of images at Crossland Community Center in Kennett Square to promote her presentation "A Different Point of View". The exhibit in the main lobby will include many of her images from her presentation, and will be on display Nov 1 - 30. Her presentation will be in the auditorium at Crosslands on Friday, Nov 21 at 7:30pm and is open to the public.

Local Exhibit - Scenes of the Schuylkill

Scenes of the Schuylkill, hosted by the Schuylkill River Greenways NHA, is an annual juried art show and sale that celebrates the beauty of the Schuylkill River Region through art. The show runs from November 4th through the 21st. You can get more details here.

Learning Opportunities

Photoshop Virtual Summit

November 3-7 The Photoshop Virtual Summit 7 will feature over 33 hours of classes from 24 of the world's top Photoshop educators – and you can attend for free! Each day, classes go live and are free to watch for 48 hours. Click here to get your free pass now.

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 Announcements

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.

Sell Your Camera Gear

If your camera closet is getting full and there's just no room for all that new equipment you want, here's a solution for you! Jack's Camera in Exton is sponsoring a buy back event with KEH on November 7th and 8th. Get money for your current gear, and with all that $$$ you can buy new gear you absolutely, positively *need*!

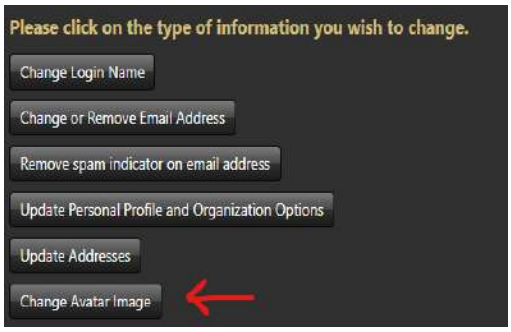
Competition Tips:

Here's a chance to step out of the box and let your creativity shine. ***Abstract Textures*** is the assigned theme for November. Focus on textures and surfaces. Use macro techniques to capture the intricate details of everyday objects, revealing the beauty in the tactile qualities of the world around us 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.



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 Jim Wilson

For his witty sense of humor! He does a great job planning such fun outings for us and is always ready to jump in (literally) and really experience the moment!