



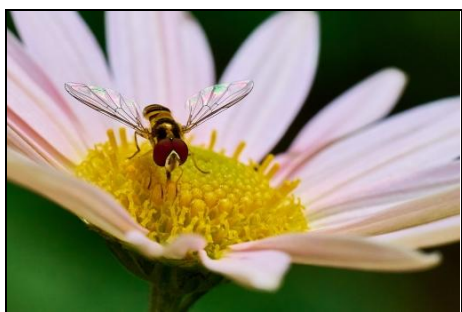
# Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

April 2025 Newsletter

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## April Showers Bring May Flowers!



*How many times have we heard that? And, if the weather forecast for this first week in April is correct, we'll be hearing and saying it all week!*

We saw the beginning of spring color last month with the tiny geophytes popping out of the ground. April will bring daffodils, tulips, magnolias and more flowering trees, and the April Showers that we tend to complain about will help ensure May is popping with color!

The images shown above are all CCCC competition award winners by three of our talented members. From left to right *Ralph Nigro, Rob Porter, and David Ward* share their passion for floral photography, and while these are not representative of early bloomers, they can certainly provide inspiration and excitement of what's to come in the later spring and summer months.

Get your cameras ready to capture the beauty of spring. If you're not into macro florals, go for wide landscapes or tiny critters, bees, or birds. Take a walk in the city and focus on architectural or street photography. Go on a CCCC outing that features outdoor opportunities in April and May

- check our schedule page for specifics. Whatever your preference, get outside and enjoy the rebirth and renewal as we head into another warm and wonderful spring season!

# March Happenings:

## Club Outing - Brandywine Museum



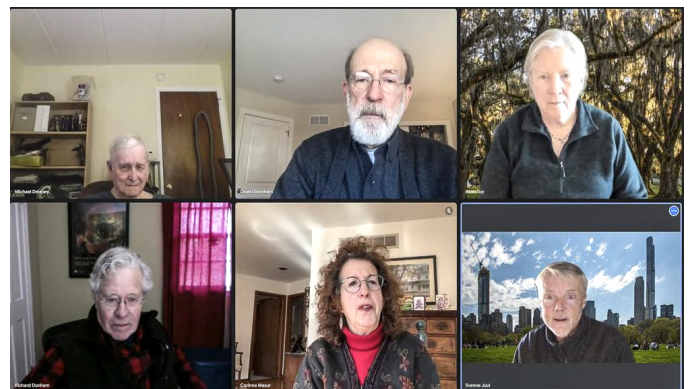
CCCC Photographers visited the Brandywine Museum of Art to view an exhibition of work by the celebrated photographers Robert Frank and Todd Webb. The expertly curated exhibit displayed more than 100 photographs that came from their cross-country journeys across America. At the same time, there was a special exhibition of Andrew Wyeth that we enjoyed while there. A double header of wonderful art!

CCCC member Rob Porter graciously invited those at the exhibit to visit his nearby home to see some of his amazing still life images. And he shared a fascinating photo technique he has perfected that takes his photos, then transfers them to glass, then covered with gold leaf for an astoundingly rich and beautiful look.



## Critique Groups

Svenne Juul hosted the digital critique group zoom session. Participants shared their images, gave their own comments 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.

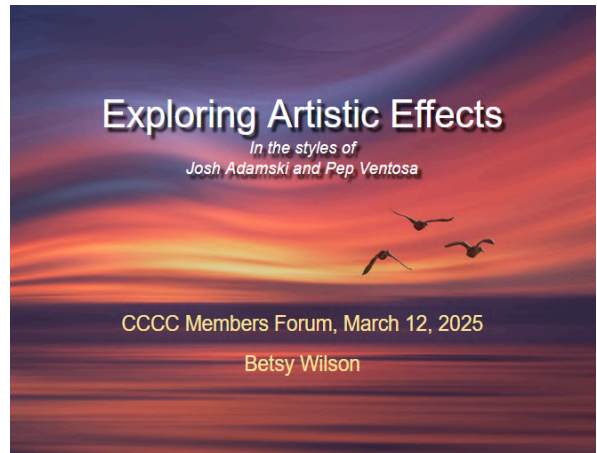




## Members Forum:

### “Artistic Effects” by Betsy Wilson

Club member Betsy Wilson shared examples and demonstrated how to create two artistic effects; those popularized by photographers Josh Adamski and Pep Ventosa. Her demonstration included an easy-to-understand primer on the basic concept of layers in photoshop. With the help of her friend Winky-Dink, it started to make sense to those who have been intimidated by photoshop layers. [Click here](#) to watch the video.



## Monthly Meeting:



### Ted and Nune Studio Specifics for a long-term project

Ted and Nune are a dynamic photographic team who enthralled us with their amazing landscape photographs which were displayed on the screen and in-person as they brought numerous large prints for us to get a close-up look. They talked about seeking out the spiritual dimension in monumental human constructions, as they journey to make studies of architecture and landscapes. [Click here](#) for the YouTube video.

## Post Processing Group

Buzz Mossholder demonstrated masking tools both in Lightroom and in photoshop, with advice about the many different ways to create a mask. Jerry Snyder sent a particularly challenging image to Buzz to try to mask. A great learning experience for all. The zoom recording is available by [clicking here](#).



## Mentor/Mentee Meeting

*"I feel like this is a "no judgment" meeting. I did not feel uncomfortable asking questions."*

After another successful gathering of those wanting to learn, and those willing to teach, Jennifer Powell asked participants for some feedback:

*"Being a medium-skilled photographer, I love coming to the meetings. It is always good to review the basics and remind myself of their details. And I loved talking about more complex things as well and sharing insights and experiences with each other. I always leave very energized and happy."*

*"I liked how the first half of the session was broken into two separate groups that discussed different things based on level of experience."*

*"This was my first in person meeting with the club and I was totally impressed and felt welcome."*

*"I've had things explained before but this is the first time that I understand certain things because they were broken down into clear steps."*

*"This is the only meeting each month that I make sure that I attend. I always leave learning new things."*

## Club Outing – Antique Auto Museum in Hershey



Three floors of beautifully restored antique cars provided quite an assortment of photo opportunities. We enjoyed a world-class automotive experience through innovative and interactive exhibits that illustrated the historical evolution of one of the most defining innovations of modern times.

And as always, experiencing new places and making creative images was accompanied with some fun with photo friends. Drew

Aungst took a ride on a vintage bus, and with a little photoshop help, Jennifer Powell took the wheel for a spin while Richard Donham held on for dear life.



Jennifer commented how much she likes the long distance field trips - "Because we get to know each other better after driving together."



## March Competition - “Creative Reflections”

The challenge was to experiment with reflections in photography. Whether it's capturing reflections in water, glass, or other surfaces, explore how reflections can add depth and interest to your compositions. Guest judge, Frank Smith, shared positive observations and comments that provided a learning experience.



First Place ribbons in the assigned print category were awarded to: Jennifer Powell in the monochrome category for “Calm Morning Stroll”, and to Eric Loken in the color category for “Flamingos on Parade”.



In the assigned digital categories, Jim Wilson was awarded first place in color for “Wishin' and Hopin'”, and the blue ribbon in monochrome went to Doug Cinoman for “All Alone”.



Pictured are all the award winners that were at the March competition meeting, including our guest judge, Frank Smith.

Congratulations to all! To see all images in the competition, go to [Competitions / Competitions Results](#), then choose the competition (eight categories), and check the box “Display all images”.

# Important Announcements:



## Swap Shop at the April Meeting

Hopefully you all started collecting your extra “photography stuff” that you don’t need or use anymore. With all the extra space, you can buy new gear! Books, magazines, camera cases, lens bags, filters - anything goes! We’ll set up a table where members can browse, take what they need, and share resources—all at no cost. Any items left at the end of the evening will be donated to a local charity. Let’s come together to support each other in growing our photography skills and enjoyment! And remember, for those who may want to sell more expensive items, there is a [forum on our website](#) for that.

## Bus Trip to Annapolis on May 17

**A limited number of seats are still available.** Don’t miss out on a fun-filled day with other club members as we make our way south and embark on “A Tale of Two Harbors” that will include Annapolis and Baltimore! Friends and family members are welcome. If you’d like to add an additional person to your existing reservation, contact [Howard](#) and he’ll get you all set up, See all the information [here](#).

## Upcoming Events:

### Monthly Critique Groups - April 6

Looking for some photo inspiration on a lazy Sunday afternoon? Why not join this group of members who meet both in-person and via zoom. You’ll have an opportunity to share your work and benefit from constructive input and inspiration from your peers. Simply contact [Jim Samanen](#) and he’ll get you all set up!

### Members’ Forum - April 9



### Famous Photographers

Presented by Norman Maynard  
and Bob Kelly

Club members Norman and Bob will share details about some of their favorite photographers and how they inspire them including [Gordon Parks](#), [André Kertész](#) and [Albert Renger-Patzsch](#).

## Monthly Meeting - April 9



### Zugunruhe - Do you feel it too? Presented by Lisa Cuchara

Pronounced zoo-gun-ROO means move, migration, anxiety, restlessness and mostly relates to birds and other animals. Some photographers get it too! Lisa will provide tips to make the most of our photographic Zugunruhe.

## Mentor/Mentee Meeting - April 16

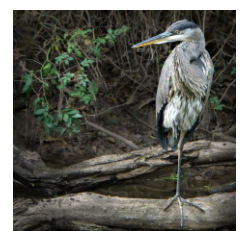
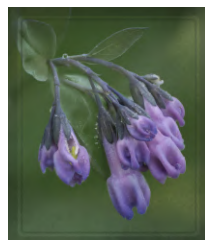
We'll continue to focus on knowing our gear again this month. Jennifer will send out an "Ask the Mentors" email in advance asking for specific questions from mentees that will be addressed at the meeting. These meetings are open to all members; email notifications are sent before each meeting.

## Post Processing Group - April 27- Zoom Only

This monthly post-processing group is great if you need help with your post-processing skills, or want to learn something new about Lightroom or PhotoShop. Buzz Mossholder answers questions throughout the demonstration, and participants are encouraged to jump in with their own suggestions. Contact [Buzz Mossholder](#) for details.

## Upcoming Outings:

### Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve and New Hope Thursday, April 17



A Double Header Day you won't want to miss! Walk the trails and photograph all the spring wildflowers and ephemerals at [Bowman's Hill](#) then head over to nearby New Hope for some funky street photography and lunch. What a great way to spend a day with photo friends, and maybe even make some new ones! Rain date is Friday, April 18.



## Valley Forge Photo Tour - Saturday, April 26 *Led by Jim and Betsy Wilson*



Join club members Jim and Betsy Wilson as they lead us on a photo excursion to some of the highlights at Valley Forge National Park - and some of their favorite photo spots! There's something for everyone, statues, cabins, landscapes, or you can create abstracts like Cathy Kuhlman did with this image on a previous outing a few years ago. Plan on a full afternoon into the evening, as we will shoot the sunset behind the iconic cabins after enjoying a picnic dinner with friends. Rain date will be Sunday, April 27.

## *Members in the News*



Congratulations to **Rob Porter**, who's featured in our Member Spotlight this month, for his First Place Blue Ribbon in the still life category of this year's Philadelphia Flower Show!

Several other club members were also awarded ribbons. Congratulations to all CCCC members who had images in the Flower Show: Ginia Apostolacus, Carol DeGuisseppi, Laura Ducceschi, Valerie Dunn, Debbie Laverell, Nima Marsh, and Betsy Wilson. What a talented group we have!

**Lee Ann Embrey** has an image on display at the [Wayne Art Center's Regional Juried Exhibition](#). The show runs from March 30 - April 26. It's free and open to the public, so if you're in the area, stop by and see some great photography - and support a club member! Click on the link above for their address and hours.





## Opportunities to Show Your Work



### 51st Annual Photography Contest

at the Silver Lake Nature Center, Bristol, PA

The Bristol Photographers Club is pleased to sponsor their 51st Photography Contest. This competition is open to all interested photographers. **If you're interested, act quickly as the deadline to enter is early April.** Download a pdf of the contest info [here](#).

It's time again for the annual Chester County in Bloom Photo contest. Share your best blooming images that you captured in Chester County. Winning images will be published in their June issue of County Lines magazine. Get all the details and information [here](#).



## Learning Opportunities



Digital Photography School is a great on-line resource that can provide information on a wide range of photo topics. When you go to their [site](#) you can click on the search icon at the top right and enter a topic. Try it. Many tutorials are free or you can purchase more in-depth courses.

## Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendar!

Sun, Apr 5	<a href="#">Critique Groups</a>
Wed, Apr 9	<a href="#">Members' Forum</a> and <a href="#">Guest Speaker</a>
Wed, Apr 16	<a href="#">Mentor/Mentee Meeting</a>
Thu, Apr 17	Club Outing - <a href="#">Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve and New Hope</a>
Fri, Apr 18	Rain date for Bowman's Hill and New Hope outing
Wed, Apr 23	<a href="#">Monthly Competition</a>
Sat, Apr 26	Club Outing - <a href="#">Valley Forge Photo Tour</a>
Sun, Apr 27	Rain date for Valley Forge outing
Sun, Apr 27	<a href="#">Post Processing Group</a>
Sat, May 17	<a href="#">Bus Trip to Annapolis and Baltimore</a>

## Member Spotlight



### New member, Rob Porter, is in the spotlight this month!

Rob is a relatively new member, as he just joined us this past October. He seems to be enjoying us so far; he's been on various outings and had winning images in some contests and competitions. He shared that "it's good to see everybody's different interests and styles. I'm impressed by the caliber of people's work."

He's been involved with photography for several years. He started with Black & White in a darkroom in the late '70's through early '80s, then like many of us, got out of it for a while. He started back up when digital cameras appeared on the scene. He had one of the first "real" digital cameras, an Olympus with a whopping 1.6 MP!!! Wow! He remembers it fondly as a nice camera.

Rob's favorite type of photography and his main focus is still life. The photo to the right shows two of his framed images, the bottom one being a Blue Ribbon winner at the Philadelphia Flower Show this year. When he travels, he enjoys cathedral interiors and occasionally does some glamour work.

Prior to his retirement, Rob was an ER doctor for 20 years, then worked for Merck for another 20 as editor-in-chief of the Merck Manuals, which consisted of several medical books and websites.



In addition to photography, Rob previously enjoyed flying his own plane and has been involved in local politics to some extent. He also writes "a bit" and shared some information about his two published books and a political Substack. He describes them in his own words below:

**The Answer is Never Magic---**"a Socratic-style dialog between a religious believer and an unbeliever (I do both parts, though "I" am the unbeliever), all dialog, no exposition."

**No Respect Intended---**"a collection of my snarky online, lefty political rantings from the 20-teens that I thought were dated until I reread them last year and saw they were as pertinent as ever, so I published them in a book."

"In both, I try to talk about serious things in a, shall we say, less than serious tone.

Now, instead of a blog, I have a Substack, 'Let's Think About That' (<https://robcatt53.substack.com/>) that the not-too-easily-offended can check out."

Many thanks to Rob for sharing with us and giving us some insight into his books. You can check them out on Amazon.

## Competition Tips:

The assigned theme for April is “**Nighttime Wanderings.**” Get outside to embrace the darkness and explore the realm of night photography. Capture the magic of city lights, starry skies, and nocturnal landscapes. For inspiration and ideas [click here!](#)

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 DeGuseppi](#) or [Betsy Wilson](#).

## The Last Laugh...

Goes to Bob Freidman for his image “No Juxtaposition Here”



Chuckles broke out in the choir room when this image appeared on the screen at the March competition. And the longer we looked at it, the funnier it got.

Thanks, Bob, for your quick eye, being in the right place at the right time, and your remarkable sense of humor!