Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

November 2024 Newsletter

Forging New Friendships!

What a turnout for our outing to Steel Stacks, the previous site of Bethlehem Steel. The site that formerly saw the forging of steel, on this day saw the forging of many new and developing friendships. This may have been a record number of participants at a CCCC outing that included many new members!

As we enter November, the start of the holiday season and Thanksgiving, let's take a minute to be thankful for our amazing club of photographers! We are so fortunate to have a community where members are willing to share their passion and expertise, where we can all learn from one another as we continue on our photography journey. The outings are just one benefit of our ever-growing club. We have forums, workshops, guest speakers, critiques, and many other vehicles for learning and growing. And let's not forget a nod to all our wonderful volunteers who make it all happen.

Happy Thanksgiving to all and may you continue to forge strong-as-steel friendships. As the saying goes, *There's Strength in Numbers*, and this photo surely exhibits the strength of CCCC!

Important Announcements:

Changes to the November Schedule

With the Holiday Season upon us, we made some changes to our schedule. Be sure to check out the schedule page for November on our website and update your calendars accordingly.

Spring Bus Trip - Saturday, May 17

If you missed this announcement previously, we're more than happy to repeat it!! Howard Sundwall, bus trip coordinator and tour guide extraordinaire, has another exciting trip in the planning stages, this time to ***Annapolis and Baltimore***. More details will be coming in the spring, but we wanted to make sure you save the date!

October Happenings:

Members Forum: "Intentional Camera Movement"

Presented by Carol DeGuiseppi

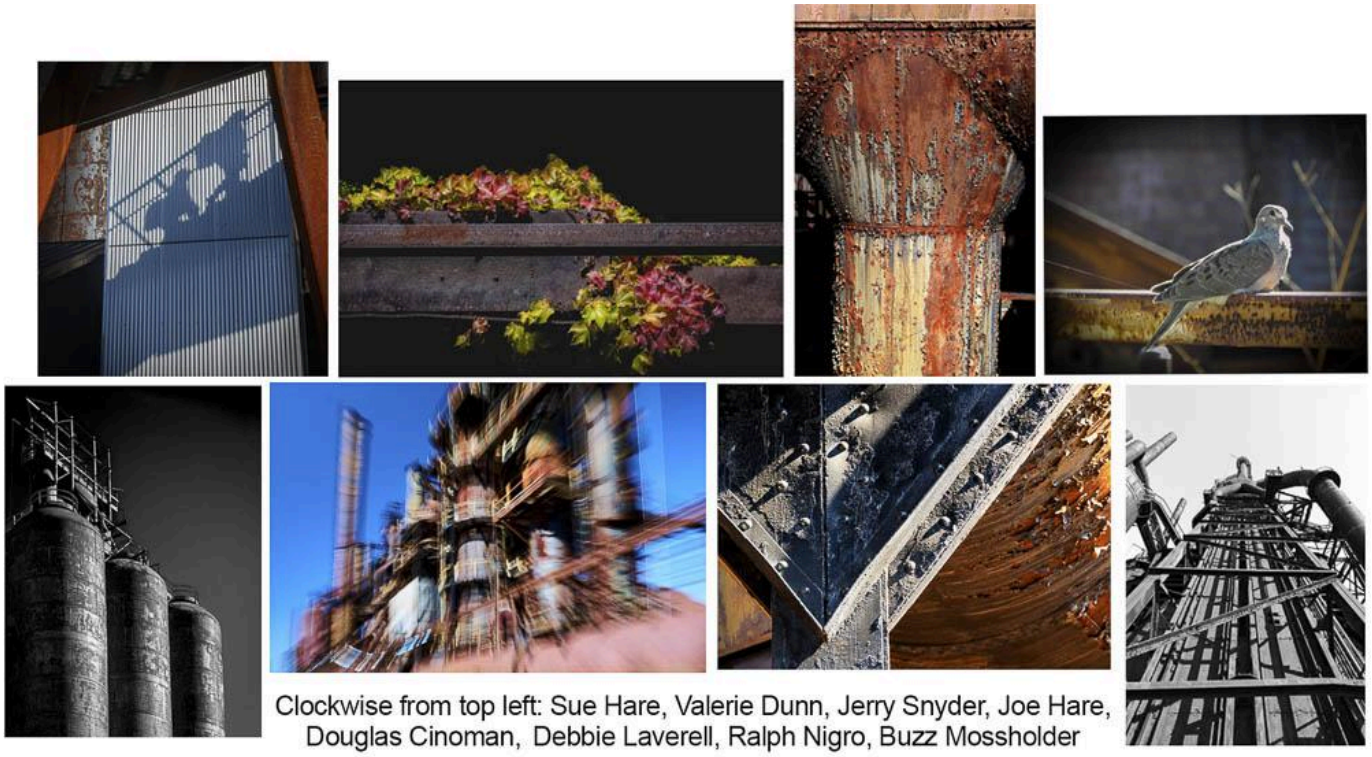
If anyone didn't know about the photo artistry associated with ICM, or Intentional Camera Movement, they do now! Carol DeGuiseppi shared a wealth of knowledge and how-to tips as she demonstrated different techniques to create artistic images. And she shared many inspirational, colorful, and beautiful images to get those creative juices flowing. Click here for a pdf of the presentation.

Monthly Meeting: "Fine Art Portraiture" Speaker - Jennifer Gershon

Jennifer specializes in fine art portraiture inspired by the Old Masters as well as still life light painting. She uses her talents to infuse a luminosity, a dramatic play of light, colors and textures reminiscent of the old masters. The audience was intrigued as she shared many images of beautiful and sometimes whimsical portraits. She took us "behind the scenes" of a photo shoot, and how she finds friends to dress up in costume and spontaneously create a mood. If you missed it, here is the recording.

Club Outing - Steel Stacks in Bethlehem

A triple header of an outing on a beautiful fall day. The group started out exploring the amazing massive steel structures of the former Bethlehem Steel factory. Then some enjoyed the activities at the Oktoberfest Celebration that took place on the grounds, including music and dancing, a Weiner Dog race, Yuengling Biergarten and a Stein holding contest. Then, off to Saint Michaels Cemetery, a somewhat neglected but still beautiful cemetery on a steep hillside looking down over the Steel Stacks. Be sure to check out the images in the club gallery.



Clockwise from top left: Sue Hare, Valerie Dunn, Jerry Snyder, Joe Hare, Douglas Cinoman, Debbie Laverell, Ralph Nigro, Buzz Mossholder

Club Outing - WCU Homecoming game

The outings program strives to include opportunities to practice all types of photography, and for those who like to photograph action shots, the Homecoming game at West Chester University provided the perfect setting. This amazing capture by Matt McLaughlin demonstrates the benefit of CCCC members getting access to the sidelines to get shots like this. Log in to more in the gallery

Club Outing - Autumn Beauty at Bushkill Falls

CCCC members took advantage of carpools and traveled to the Poconos to experience the wonder of Bushkill Falls. A series of boardwalks meander up and down through the woods past numerous waterfalls. We had the opportunity to photograph moving water; some experimented with neutral density filters to create a silky look to the flowing water. Some captured leaves and swirls as the water cascaded down, and some created images featuring the fall colors around the lake. After a few hours of hiking through the gorges, the group enjoyed a picnic lunch, warmed up with hot chocolate and snacked on artistically created autumn cookies made by the talented Valerie Dunn.

Pictured above clockwise from top left: Jerry Snyder, Carol DeGuiseppi, Dean Grantham, Jennifer Powell, and image at bottom is by Buzz Mossholder. More images can be enjoyed in the gallery.

Post Processing Zoom Group

Buzz Mossholder moderated a very interactive session on photo editing. Using three images submitted by participants, the zoom group first gave suggestions for edits to improve or enhance each image, then Buzz demonstrated how to do each adjustment. A learning exercise for all! You can watch the video here.

October Competition - "Macro Marvels"

The challenge was to zoom in on the intricate details of the world around us. Explore the tiny universes that often go unnoticed with macro photography techniques. From insects to flowers, reveal the beauty in the small. Guest judge, Karl Leck, provided positive observations and comments and offered up suggestions for making images even better. He wrapped up the evening by sharing some prints of his own amazing macro images.

First Place ribbons were awarded to: New member Robert Porter in the assigned print color category for "Purple Iris", and to Atala Toy in the assigned print monochrome category for "Elephant Ear Curves".

Ginia Apostolacus earned the first place ribbon in the assigned digital color category with "Milkweed", and the first place award in the assigned digital monochrome category went to Eric Loken for "Grasshopper at Night".

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".

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Group - *November 3*

With the days getting cooler and yard work coming to an end, your Sunday afternoons may be free! This is a great time to get involved with the Monthly Critique Group and get some valuable input and inspiration from your peers. They meet both in person and via zoom, typically on the first Sunday of the month. It's a great way to mix and mingle with fellow club members and get tips to improve your photos at the same time!! If this sounds like something of interest to you, simply contact Jim Samanen to get you all set up!

Mentor/Mentee Meeting - *November 6*

This group will meet earlier than usual this month and we appreciate your flexibility. If you're new to photography, want to improve, or want to share your knowledge, this group may be for you. In-person meetings are held at the church on the third Thursday of the month (except in November!) and are focused on interactive learning. Image critiques are included and this month they will focus on various rules of composition. Interested? Contact Gary Altoonian.

Members' Forum - *November 13*

Photography After Retirement Panel Discussion
Howard Sundwall and Susan Jones

Join us for what is sure to be a lively discussion with two retired members who, like many of us, started their photography journey after retirement and didn't have to work everyday! Audience participation is encouraged! Photo shown is of Richard Donham, taking all the time he needs to get the perfect shot, after all, he's retired and not in a hurry!

Monthly Meeting - *November 13*

Guest Speaker - Freddy Clark
Splashes and Pours

Do you ever wonder how photographers make beverages look so enticing and make you want to reach for that sparkling glass of wine or frosted mug of beer? Well, Freddy Clark is going to review the basics of stylized beverage photography and show us how to incorporate splashes and pours to make them more dynamic! Check his website for a sneak peek.

Post Processing Group - November 17

This group will continue with its new format and will collaboratively edit several images of varying complexity using Lightroom for the less complex images and both Lightroom and Photoshop for the more complex images.

If you want to enhance your post-processing skills in Lightroom and PhotoShop, this may be the group for you. Contact Buzz Mossholder and let him know of your interest.

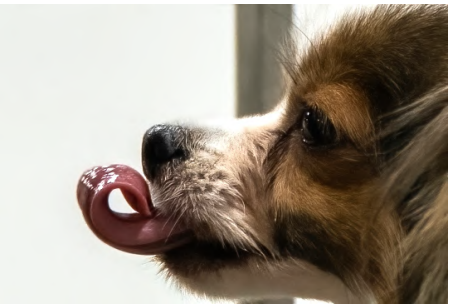
Upcoming Outings:

Mercer Museum - Sunday, November 10

If you've never been to the Mercer Museum, you'll want to make sure you don't miss this outing. Designed by Henry Mercer, it comprises six floors of "stuff" including 17,000 pre-industrial tools and loads of photo opportunities! You also have the option of a one-hour guided tour of Mercer's estate, Fonthill Castle, a showplace featuring his famous ceramic tiles. Get all the information on the schedule page and learn more about Mercer and Fonthill here.

National Dog Show - Saturday, November 16

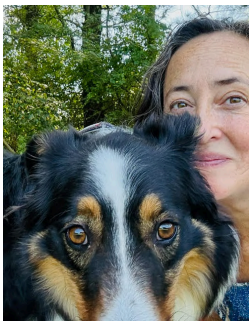
We all love our furry friends, and the National Dog Show in Oaks, PA is the perfect opportunity to get up close and personal with so many pampered pets. They love having their pictures taken and showing us the many tricks they can do. Just look at this pretty pooch showing off its tongue curling for Svenne Juul at the last outing.



New Members

We had another great month with several new members joining. A warm welcome goes out to **Kathy Boccella, Zachary Bryceland, Chris Calhoun, Rob Porter, Jerry Snyder, and Barbara Vietzke**. And welcome back to returning member **Michael Piersimoni**. We look forward to getting to know you and getting reacquainted in the coming months. We hope you enjoy all the club has to offer.

Our Member Spotlight is shining on Emi Shigano this month!



Emi first joined CCCC in 2017, but hasn't been consistent and admits to usually fizzling out by the end of winter! Hopefully we can entice her to stay longer this time!

She's been involved in photography since the early 80's. In college, she joined a camera club and began printing B&W and submitted to local exhibitions for several years until she began her residency and no longer had the time.

Her favorite type of photography, in her own words: "*As a poet and painter, rooted in Christian spirituality (and existential philosophy), I love photography that comes from the heart rather than from the head: simple and organic yet evocative photography — even unfocused or with an unfinished feel — that carries a poetic/lyrical note whether realism or abstract, and not too keen on images overly processed or religiously focused on technicalities. And that may be where I begin to part ways with some photographers, even periodically fading out of the camera club scene.*"

She does enjoy being part of our club and says she is "*amazed by people like Helen and Betsy who remember people's names no matter how long they've been absent!*" — and that might be the number one reason she's still here, besides photography having been very much part of her life for decades.

Currently she is a full time painter/artist, having gradually made that transition after being on the fence as to whether to focus on photography or painting. Prior to that, she homeschooled her children for a decade; before kids, she was a physician in Japan where she grew up.

Besides art, she writes poetry, keeps honey bees and hens, and enjoys gardening. She's also part of a small church community that works with the food cupboard to prepare and provide necessities to impoverished families in the community.

Emi shared that four decades of photography has been instrumental in cultivating her observational skills, in discovering beauty where she had not thought to look before, and in nurturing her love of nature — so much so that she transitioned more towards contemplative outdoor painting. Quite different from sitting in front of a computer editing images for hours!! She added: "*In the end, it's not so much what I do (or even what my subject matter is) as much as what I value (or who I am) that determines how I adjust my relationship with the visual arts.*"

The Chester County Art Association featured Emi's work in a solo exhibit entitled "*The Light Within - Vignettes of Meditation*" in October. Shown here is one of the pieces that was on display and another of Emi mingling with the crowd at the opening reception.

Learning Opportunities

NOVEMBER 11 - 15

What a great line-up! 30+ hours of inspirational and practical Photoshop training. Classes from world-class expert teachers. Details and registration info here.

Dates to Remember

Wed, Nov 6	Mentor Meeting
Sun, Nov 10	Club Outing - Mercer Museum
Wed, Nov 14	Members Forum and Outside Speaker
Sat, Nov 16	Club Outing - National Dog Show
Sun, Nov 17	Post Processing Group
Wed, Nov 20	Monthly Competition
Sat, Dec 7	Holiday Party - noon-3pm
Sat, Dec 14	Club Outing - Philly at Night
Sat, May 17	Bus Trip to Annapolis and Baltimore - Hold the Date!

Competition Tips:

November's assigned theme is ***Light and Shadow Studies.*** You often hear the term "It's All About the Light" in discussions about photography. This is true - and it's also true that light and shadows together can play a huge part in the composition of a compelling and successful image. Need some inspiration? Click here!

If you want to enter the print category, Jack's Cameras in Exton offers 20% off prints (in store pickup only). Use the code CCCC20 when ordering online (Online Photo Prints | Camera Spot) or mention CCCC when ordering in the store.

Website Wisdom

Need a refresher on who in CCCC is in charge of what? Go to Club Information / Club Officers and Committees and you'll get all the names. Then if you want to email someone (perhaps you want to volunteer to join a committee!) you can send them an email by going to Club Information / Send email to members. Remember to login, as this option is only visible to active CCCC members.

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 Laugh

Goes to

Joseph Caulfield

"What was that Ref?"

Coaches and referees are notorious for having disagreements, and this WCU coach surely wasn't jumping for joy during the recent outing to the 2024 Homecoming Game. Looks like he lost his temper, as well as his papers, his whistle, and his footing! Great capture, Joe!