Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

July - August 2026 Newsletter

CCCC Takes on Coney Island!

Just look at all these happy folks getting ready for a fun day in Coney Island. Bus trip organizer extraordinaire, Howard Sundwall, timed this outing perfectly to coordinate with the annual Mermaid Parade on the famous Coney Island Boardwalk. What an amazing day we had with unlimited photo opportunities, great weather, and new adventures with our foto friends!

We climbed aboard a luxury bus in the Westminster parking lot in the early afternoon of June 20th and headed to Brooklyn. Howard, a native New Yorker, gave us an overview of the day and provided helpful tips for seeing some of the iconic sights in Coney Island. Our resident snack parents, Jim and Betsy Wilson, made sure we had healthy items to munch on and plenty of water to stay hydrated.

Our bus driver, Joe, was an expert at navigating the streets of Brooklyn and made sure to get us very close to the boardwalk and other top attractions. After our customary group shot, we were free to wander for several hours. Some of us went to Luna Park and the amusements and rides, some headed to the beach and the pier, some wanted to experience a Coney Island Hot Dog. One thing is certain, everyone got great photographs! There is a page dedicated to photos later in the newsletter and you can also view them in the gallery on our website.

Several of our newer members joined us on this outing, in fact, a recent survey of new members indicated that our outing program was a key factor in their decision to join CCCC - that and what great and talented members we have! If this was your first outing, we hope you had a great time and you join us in other club events and activities - and tell your friends about us!

June Happenings:

Club Outing - WWII Reenactment in Reading

Despite the sweltering heat, a hardy group of CCCC photographers headed to the WWII Reenactment and Air Show in Reading, PA, where they were rewarded with endless photo opportunities. From thrilling aerial displays to action-packed scenes on the ground, authentic period reenactors and vintage military equipment made for a memorable day of photography. The results speak for themselves—be sure to check out the club gallery to see the outstanding images they captured!

Photo credits clockwise from top left: Valerie Dunn, Steve Whitney, Sondra Cotton, Denice Molzahn, Sondra Cotton, Ralph Nigro, Ralph (again), and in the center, Valerie Dunn.

Year End Party and Awards Celebration!!!

A wonderful party hosted by president Jennifer Powell and her husband Bill Powell at their party barn - the perfect setting to celebrate yet another fantastic club year full of learning, activities, and fun! CCCC members and guests enjoyed delicious potluck appetizers, main dishes and desserts, - and of course lots of friendship and laughter.

Click here to see a pdf of this year's highlights!

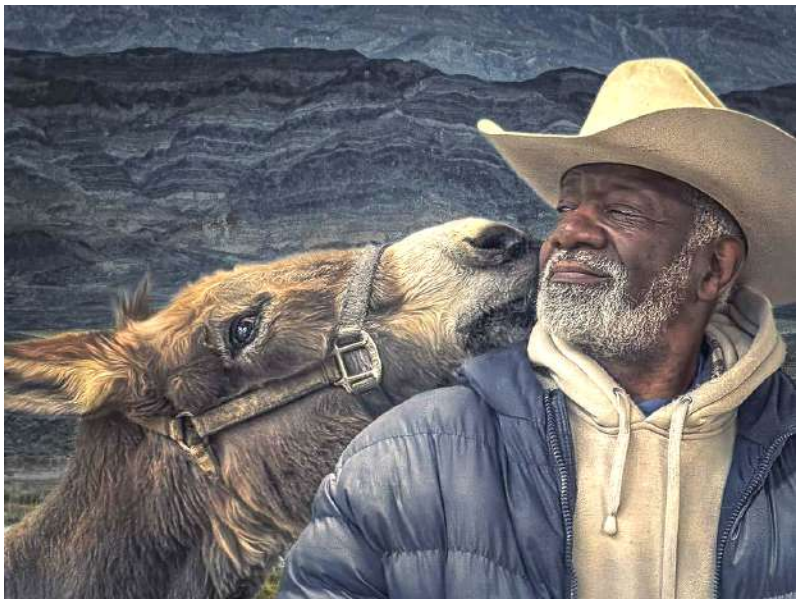
People's Choice Awards

The People's Choice Award is based on CCCC members' votes on their favorite images of all the first place ribbon winners for the year.

Third place went to Jennifer Hahn for "My Dog Mozart"

Second place went to Robert Doerr Jr. for "Historic Yates Mill".

First Place was awarded to Betsy Wilson for "Death Valley Devotion"



You can see a pdf of the slide show of the awards here.

Photographers of the Year

Ralph Nigro and David Ward

The Photographer of the Year Award goes to the CCCC member who has won the most awards in our monthly competitions. The winner in the digital category was Ralph Nigro, and the winner in the print category was David Ward.

Megapixel Award recipient - Helen Wagner

The Megapixel Award each year goes to an exceptional volunteer for commendable service and dedication. This year we salute Helen Wagner for her years of support:

- Member since – a long time ago!
- Volunteering since...forever
- Treasurer- many years
- Double duty in 2025 due to open Membership Coordinator position... all while living in an Airbnb while her house was being renovated!

You can see a pdf of the slide show of the awards here.

Congratulations to all!

Coney Island Bus Trip

A few images from the colorful event! More in the [CCCC gallery.]

Photo credits - Top row: Betsy Wilson, Carol DeGuiseppi, Sondra Cotton, Joanne Donato. Second row: Doug Cinoman, Howard Sundwall, Jennifer Powell, Atala Toy. Third row: Buzz Mossholder, Mary Grucella, Margaret Munshower, Svenne Juul. Bottom: Stephen Donato, Margaret Munshower, Betsy Wilson.

Summer Challenge Meetup at St. Peter's Village

The ***Summer Challenge*** is now underway, so don't put that camera away! Our first summer meetup was at Historic St. Peters Village where we looked for interesting sights and perhaps a few of the "Texture" challenge items to photograph. After wandering among the quaint buildings and meandering along the rock-lined creek, we enjoyed a terrific dinner at the St. Peters Inn. There is still time to join in this wonderful opportunity to stay engaged with the club during the summer when we don't have formal meetings.

Important Announcements:

New Club Year!

The 2026-27 club year will officially begin with our kick-off meeting on Wednesday, September 9. Dates for all meetings will be posted on the CCCC website Schedule.

Look for membership renewal information sometime in August. It's quick and easy to renew via the website and PayPal!

Upcoming Events:

Second Summer Challenge Outing - July 15

If you missed the first one, no big deal. Join us for the second Summer Challenge Outing. It's a great way to stay connected over the summer, improve your photography, and meet new people. The theme this year is Textures, and the categories are shown here. Check the calendar for outing location and dinner details.

And don't forget the Image Sharing and Potluck Gathering on August 12

Monthly Critique Groups - August 2 and August 30

We know it's hot outside, but our critique groups are indoor events! Whether via zoom from the comfort of your couch or at another member's home, here's a great way to share your images and get inspiration from your peers on a Sunday afternoon. These groups meet both in-person and via zoom, typically the first Sunday of the month. Contact Jim Samanen and he'll get you all set up.

Upcoming Outings:

Night Sky Photography

July 13-14 (new date!)

Rescheduled a few times due to weather conditions, Svenne Juul has gotten clearance from both the property owner and Mother Nature to trek into the dark to photograph the night sky on Monday night, July 13, into the wee hours of Tuesday 14th. If you are already signed up, you will get updated emails from Svenne. If interested and not already on the list, send an email to Svenne.

Jennifer Hahn, our new Competitions Chair, is in the Spotlight this month!

Member Spotlight

Jennifer is relatively new to CCCC, having just joined us in October of 2025. She's also new to the role of Competitions Chair, which she officially started on July 1. We are so very thankful to Jennifer for stepping up and her willingness to get involved in a volunteer role in the club.

Her photo journey started back in 1996. She was living in Baltimore at the time and enrolled in photography courses at Maryland Institute College of Art. She "finally" (her wording) completed her doctoral degree and was traveling a lot, so naturally wanted to take better pictures. She wasn't happy that she had to start with black and white photography, but loved it, took B/W Photography II, and re-enrolled again to access the dark room! When her gig was up at that school, she used another college's darkroom for a while before moving back to Pennsylvania. Once here, she used the darkroom at Montgomery County Community College before switching entirely to digital photography.

She enjoys all types of photography and has difficulty singling out one genre. She tends to lean toward travel photography because she loves to travel, but is trying to do more wildlife photography. She consistently tries to expand her skill set and creativity.

Jennifer is inspired by CCCC members and shared, "*I like to see other photographer's work, which exposes me to different ways of creating images. I find that this exposure to others' work, in addition to competitions,pushes me to "try harder" in my photography.*"

Unlike many of us who are already retired, Jennifer is still gainfully employed as a Clinical Psychologist. She's had a number of careers in the field (mostly all non-traditional clinical psychologist roles). Currently, she works at Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital and sees inpatients and outpatients in rehab (working with individuals with brain injuries, amputations, spinal cord injuries, orthopedic injuries, strokes, chronic pain, etc.).

In addition to her new volunteer position at CCCC, she has been an elected precinct committee person in Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County since 2016. In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys traveling, gardening, home improvement projects, and games and puzzles.

Welcome, Jennifer and good luck to you in your new role as Competitions Chairperson!

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendar!

Mon, Jul 13	Outing - Night Sky Photography - ***Weather Dependent!***
Wed, Jul 15	Second Summer Challenge Outing
Sun, Aug 2	Critique Groups
Wed, Aug 12	Summer Challenge Pot Luck Dinner
Sun, Aug 30	Critique Groups

New Members

Welcome to our newest members, **Dennis Kearns** and **Janine Kearns** and a warm welcome back goes out to a returning member, **Arthur (Art) Jankowski.** We're happy to have all of you in the club and look forward to getting acquainted and re-acquainted in the coming months.

Opportunities to Share Your Work

The Woods are Calling!
Fall 2026 Art in the Woods now accepting applications

Applications are now being accepted for Art in the Woods 2026 at the Chester County Art Association through Friday, July 31. This outdoor art festival takes place on Saturday, October 10, from 11:00 AM–4:00 PM, welcoming artists and the community to a day of creativity and connection.

Set against the scenic backdrop of CCAA's wooded campus, Art in the Woods celebrates creativity, community, and the beauty of nature through art, live entertainment, food, family-friendly experiences, and opportunities to connect with the local creative community. Learn More Here!

The Photography Classes for The Philadelphia Flower Show 2027 have been announced! Here's a chance to share your skill and creativity as a photographer and show the rest of the country the amazing talent we have in CCCC. Club member, Helen Wagner, has been involved with the flower show for several years and is currently serving as the Chair of the Photography Division; we'd love to show her our support. Registration begins in September, but start thinking about it and shooting now! Find all the details here.

Competition Tips:

While there are no formal competitions during the summer months, here are the assigned themes for the next club year. Don't let your camera sit idle over the summer - get out there and tackle some of these themes! More details and examples of the theme parameters are posted on the website.

September	Cityscape	October	Discomfort / Unpleasant	November	Food
January	Flat Lay	February	Animals in Captivity	March	Time
April	Minimalist	May	Club Outing 2026-27		

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.

One Last Thought

"Oh, I don't think so!"

It looks like this Coney Island guy was trying to introduce Peg Munshower to his pet snakes.

Peg wasn't interested in making a new friend that day, and no amount of coaxing was going to get her to pet these creatures!