Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

June 2023 Newsletter

Summertime.... and the Livin' is Easy!

Most of us probably have memories of Janis Joplin belting out this soulful tune with Big Brother and the Holding Company. Are you aware it was written by George Gershwin in 1934 for his brand new opera, Porgy and Bess, as a lullaby for Clara to sing to her baby? Since then, according to Dr. Google, it has had over 25,000 versions and is the most covered song in the world!!

That's enough of a music lesson for now, let's get on to the real topic here -- Summertime and easy living! Even though many of us are retired, summertime is usually associated with vacations and outdoor fun, dining alfresco, and relaxation, so get out there and enjoy it! Look what a relaxing day Betsy Wilson had when she captured the image shown here. However you plan to live the easy life, just be sure to take your camera with you!

Even though we don't have official camera club meetings in the summer, the very popular Summer Challenge provides opportunities for us to get together, enjoy some outdoor photo shoots and a relaxing meal together afterwards. You can read more about this in the Important Announcements section and be on the lookout for your official invitation in your email on June 1 - we do hope you'll be joining us. Another fun event is our end of the year awards and recognition event on June 6th that you won't want to miss!

Congratulations! CCCC Officers of 2023-2024

The votes are in and it was another landslide election for next year's officers! We are happy to announce That all of this year's elected officers were voted in to again serve in the upcoming year.

Denise Molzahn, President; Virginia Apostolacus, Vice President (also immediate Past President); Carolyn Mead, Secretary; Helen Wagner, Treasurer; Carol DeGuiseppi, Member at Large; Sheila Fredericks, Member at Large

Get Involved!!

Our camera club is successful because of the work of all our wonderful volunteers. We're all proud to be a part of the best camera club in the east, where we can make new friends and have a great time in the process! Our slate of officers is set for next year, but we can always use help on various committees. We are currently looking for someone to chair the mentor/mentee group. Here's a great opportunity for you to get involved and ensure this very popular club benefit continues. The chair will be responsible for coordinating and recruiting experienced club members to share their knowledge and expertise with less experienced members.

Not ready to commit this year? Keep in mind that for the 2024-2025 club year we will need members to step up for the positions of President and Vice President. According to our bylaws, a person cannot serve in those roles for more than two consecutive years, which means Denise and Ginia will be forced to retire after this term. Remember, the success of the club depends on all of us stepping up and becoming involved! Sound like something for you? Let Denise or Ginia know and they'll point you in the right direction!

CCCC in the News!

Small Talk: Photography as Art in a Digital Age

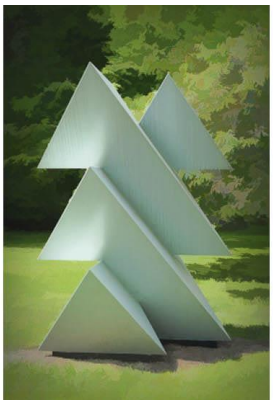
Published in the Daily Local News, May 24, 2023

Reporter Bill Rettew of the Daily Local News attended the Chester County Camera Club meeting in May, and not only observed the fascinating "Living Stills" presentation by Svenne Juul, he interviewed quite a few club members and shared his observations of today's photography in an-in-depth article. Two images by past-president Howard Sundwall were featured in the article, including this one of the Empire State Building. This is a great article that celebrates the learning aspect and camaraderie shared by our members - well worth the read! Click here to read the article.

May Highlights:

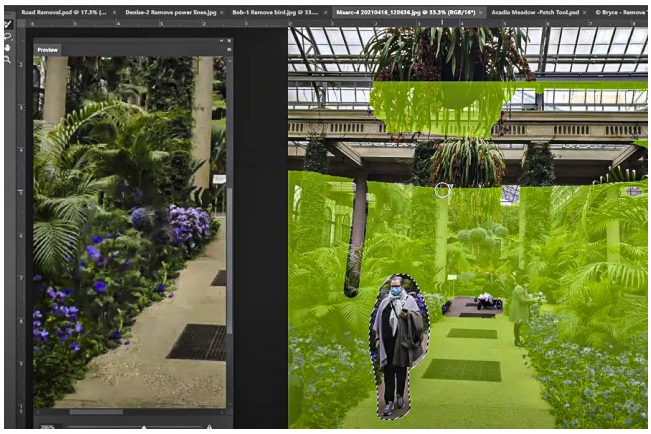
Club Outing - Morris Arboretum

CCCC photographers basked in the beautiful spring weather at the Morris Arboretum & Gardens of the University of Pennsylvania. One of the many beautiful gardens in our area, the private estate formerly known as Compton, opened to the public in 1933 and marked its official transition to a public garden. Our creative photographers found lots of beautiful and unique subjects to photograph, like these images taken by Douglas Cinoman (left and middle image), and by Dave Kiefer (right image). Check the club gallery to see more.



Post Processing Interest Group - monthly zoom event

Buzz Mossholder wrapped up his series of zoom lessons on photoshop with an in-depth tutorial about removing distractions. He covered the techniques of using the clone-stamp tool, spot healing brushes, content-aware-fill, and more. Buzz will continue next year with a few more photoshop lessons, and plans to cover techniques for correcting and enhancing color, and the use of a variety of photoshop filters. If interested in participating in future sessions, send Buzz an email.



"Buzz, Thanks again for all your time (and patience).

I look forward to next semester"!

- Bob Friedman

Members Forum

"Storytelling through Living Stills" - Svenne Juul

As camera-clubbers we all share the love of impactful still images. At their best, the very stillness of many of these images convey a beauty and drama - all captured at a specific point in time within a specific scene and composition. But then there are 'other' still images.... These other stills could often become more impactful, and tell better stories, if we could only add a little history, life and movement to the images.

During this presentation, Svenne Juul took us through his ongoing journey into improving storytelling by turning the 'other' still images into 'Living Stills'. He shared his exciting news that he and his son are developing an app that will allow others to create “Living Stills.”

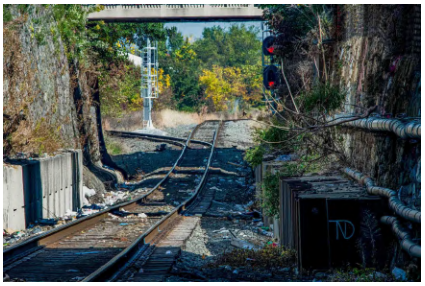
Monthly Meeting

Michael Albany- Overcoming photography “writer’s block”

What do you do when you want to create but nothing is inspiring you? You feel like it won’t be what you want. It's never good enough. We all have those days.

There are ways to get out of that mindset. There are ways to make you be creative again! As a professional photographer Michael has had to pull himself together on demand. He shared lots of ideas of things he has learned over the years to get out of a slump, to bring yourself back to your creative self and to enjoy shooting again. If you missed the presentation, you can watch it on YouTube.

Mentor Meeting - How to do Focus Stacking

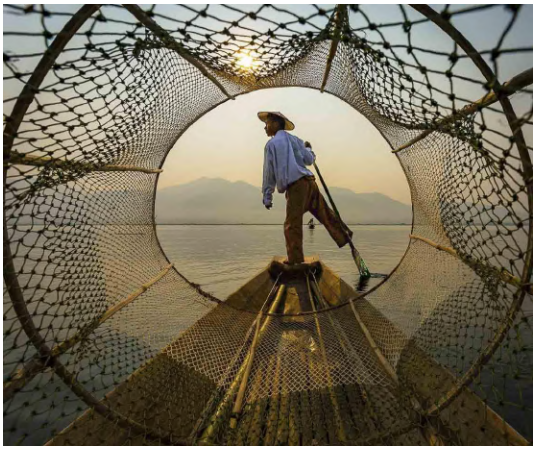


Svenne Juul stepped up to the plate yet again this month to share his expertise on the useful technique of focus stacking. He provided information on how to use multiple images with different areas in focus and combine them to create a tack-sharp image. The Mentor/Mentee meetings provide opportunities for less-experienced photographers to get personalized instruction and tips from more-experienced members.

May Competition

The assigned theme was "Unusual Point of View" and CCCC members did not disappoint as they submitted a fascinating assortment of their interpretation of the subject. Guest Judge, Karl Leck, provided insight and inspiration as he analyzed images and picked the award winners.

First Place winners in the assigned category went to "Up on the Roof" by Jim Wilson and to Svenne Juul for "A Hat on a Man." First place ribbons in the open category went to Betsy Wilson for "Kelsey's Birthday Gift" and to Wendy Summer for "Inle Lake Fisherman".



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:

Monthly Critique Group - *June 4*

We may be on a break from our regular monthly meetings, but the Monthly Critique Group is going strong. This members-only group, which meets in-person and via zoom, provides a great opportunity to stay engaged with photo friends during the summer while getting constructive comments and inspiration from your peers. Interested? Contact Jim Samanen; he'll get you all set up!

June Outings:

Cowtown Rodeo - *June 3*

Get out your cowboy shirts and Ten Gallon Hats - We're headed to the rodeo! We're going early in the season so we're sure not to miss it this year! The cowboys will be out and the broncos will be bucking, just like in the image shown here by *Matt McLaughlin* from a previous outing. Here's an opportunity for action shots, or if you prefer people watching, there's plenty of that too! Check the schedule for carpool info.

Philadelphia's Chinatown in Evening - *June 17*
Rescheduled from May

Philly's vibrant Asian enclave, originally settled in the mid-19th century by Cantonese immigrants, provides a sensory experience for all - food, lights, entertainment, and more! We will start before the sun sets and follow the changing light as darkness falls and the lights of Chinatown are lit - a great way to spend a Saturday night and immerse yourself in Asian culture. Photo shown is by Lee Ann Embrey from a visit to the Chinese Lion Dance Parade a few years ago.

Important Announcements:

Summer Challenge 2023

Don't put your cameras away for the summer; the Summer Challenge is right around the corner! This year's theme is, ***"Let's Go to the Movies."*** As in the past, there will be two outings; one each in June and July, followed by the traditional pot-luck supper and image viewing event in August. If you haven't already received your invitation, be on the lookout - it will arrive via email. Look at all the smiling faces in this image taken at the August 2022 potluck supper at Helen Wagner's home!

Annual Awards and Recognition Event 2023

Tuesday, June 6

Lions and Tiger and Bears - Oh My! But there are no bears on a Safari, which is our theme for this year's annual end of the year party. So, we'll say, Lions and Tigers and Elephants!! Get out your safari hats and shirts; hop into your ATV and head on over to Westminster for a great wrap-up to another successful year. We will share food, fotos, and friendship while recognizing all of our accomplishments for the year.

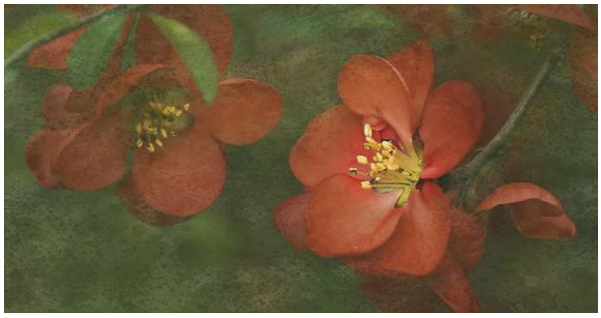
The Photographer of the Year and Peoples' Choice recipients will also be announced at this time. If you haven't already voted for your top three favorites in the Peoples' Choice, the deadline is Sunday, June 4 at 8:00 PM, but don't delay - do it now by clicking here.

Dates to Remember

Sat, June 3	Club Outing - CowTown Rodeo
Tues, June 6	Annual Awards and Recognition Party
Sat, June 17	Club Outing - Philadelphia's Chinatown

Members in the News

Congratulations to both Carol DeGuiseppi and Valerie Dunn for being recognized as two of Viewbug's "Picture Perfect" Award recipients for their images shown here. Viewbug is an online forum where you can post images, enter contests, meet other photographers, and more. The basic membership is at no cost to you, and (of course) there is also an option for a paid subscription.



"Flowering Quince" by Carol DeGuiseppi

"Portree Harbour. Isle of Skye" by Valerie Dunn

Betsy and Jim Wilson are also in the news these days! They've just added Smash Burger Food Truck to their resume. Jim built this beautiful wood canvas canoe, and Betsy took the photo that is now paired with a fine entrée of a Smash Burger and fries on a truck somewhere in Indiana. Gotta love a red canoe!

Volunteer Spotlight

The volunteer spotlight is shining on a new, but not so new club member, ***Marc Horton,*** *this month!*

Marc may be the oldest, or more specifically, the member who has the earliest affiliation with the club. He first joined the club when it met in the basement of a bank in West Chester way back in the 1990's. Attendance was low and he helped boost membership; then served as president in 1995-96. He moved on to other things (most likely work!) for a few years and re-joined the "new and improved" CCCC two years ago as a novice in the digital age. His wife, Elaine also joined and encourages him as he spends hours shooting and learning post processing techniques. She enjoys some of the outings and points out interesting subjects that Marc may overlook. Then, she is a valued critic of the results. What a great team!!

While he doesn't hold an official volunteer role at the moment, he has been extremely helpful in assisting Svenne with the outings, and will take on a more active role next year. He's also doing a great job ensuring we have wonderful group photos to document our fun. And just look at the size of that tripod!!

Marc has been involved with photography since he was 11 years old when his parents gave him a Kodak Bay Brownie camera. His mother was an art teacher and his dad was a commercial artist, so it seems natural that he inherited the creative and artistic genes.

Marc's favorite genres of photography are wildlife, nature, and travel. They have several bird feeders and a tree branch for birds to land on, and he appreciates being able to incorporate a natural background in these images. He's also been trying for eagles and other flying as opportunities come along. Much of his travel photography is of the Maine coast. Being a native New Englander, he admits that Acadia and some of the lesser known areas draw him like a magnet. It also helps that his sister has a summer home on the coast.

He enjoyed a career in information services and spent the last 20 years working with a global pharmaceutical company. Marc stays busy volunteering in this community - he has invested 10 years assisting incarcerated men at Chester County Prison, helping them to overcome the hurdles they face upon reentry. In addition to photography, Marc enjoys bicycling. Trail rides are his choice now, and he's looking at ways to carry a Nikon Z7 ii safely on a bike.

Since his dive into the digital age, Marc is continually expanding his knowledge of photography. He enjoys attending the mentor/mentee meetings (where sometimes they even have lollipops!) and the club outings that take him to places he would otherwise miss and learning from others in the process. He commented that "*the CCCC photographers produce amazing, inspiring and instructive images, and I'm always learning new techniques. Reconnecting with the vastly new and different club and its wonderful people has been a fulfilling experience and I look forward to continuing to grow as a member and participant.*"

Learning Opportunities

Here's a personal recommendation from club member, Robert Becker, who is also the President of the Lehigh Valley Photography Club. It's always nice to have personal recommendations and endorsements from other photographers. Thanks Bob!

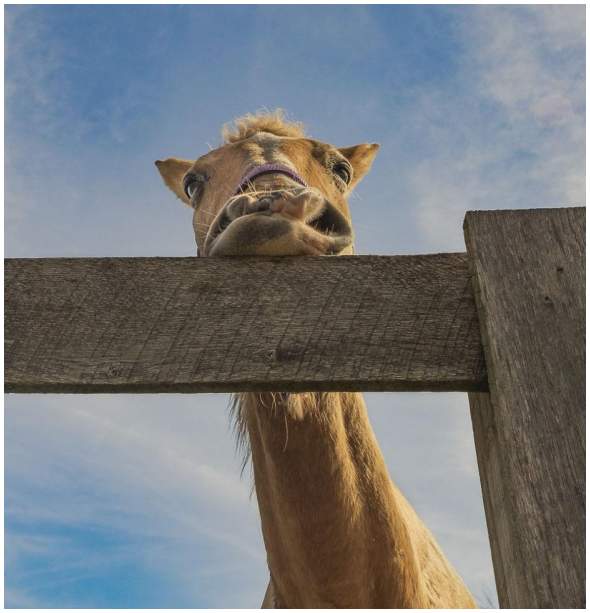
"*If you've wanted to use Photoshop with skill, I recommend that you take the series of FREE courses offered by PixImperfect on YouTube. The first class is found here.*

There are currently 5 classes. In my opinion, PixImperfect is the best of the Photoshop related YouTube Channels that is relevant for both photographers and graphic artists. You can find all the classes and much, much more at their YouTube Channel."

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.

And the Last Laugh goes to.....

Susan Jones



For her ribbon-winning image

"Can you Grab my Dentures"