Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

November 2023 Newsletter

Fun with Mats and Mounts!!

And yet another photo of club members smiling and having fun! All joking aside, they have a very good reason to be happy - they just participated in a wonderful workshop where they learned new skills and are happy to show their beautifully matted and mounted images.

This first workshop of the new club year was a great success, in part due to the hard work and dedication of our wonderful volunteers. Our club is fortunate to have such a strong volunteer program made up of members who are always willing to help. Jim Samanen spearheaded this workshop, and with the help of three others, Peter Guman, Connie Snyder, and new volunteer, Norman Maynard, they provided a wonderful instructional opportunity in which members learned a new skill and had fun with photo friends at the same time!

Everyone came away with beautiful images that are ready to frame and hang on a wall, but first, submit to a print competition! Let's all sit back and watch how our print submissions increase as a result of this workshop!

October Highlights:

Members Forum:
Jim Samanen - Showing and Selling Your Photos

Jim Samanen loves showing his photography at art shows and galleries, and he has sold 175 of his images to-date, so he definitely had some great advice on the subject! He covered all the basics of different ways to share and even sell your photos. And he shared compelling reasons as to why your images should be displayed outside of your hard drive, like this fantastic display at the prestigious Sugarloaf Festival. If you missed it, click here. Jim also provided slides with notes and appendices, saved here on the website.

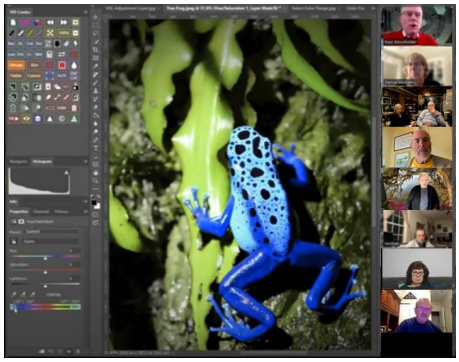
Monthly Meeting:
Dalanie Franklin-Photography is Medicine

A heartfelt and uplifting presentation by combat veteran Dalanie Franklin was embraced by the audience as he shared his story of using photography as a form of healing. He bought his first camera while deployed on his second tour to the Middle-East in 2008. It was the last one in stock, and pink, so he named it "Pinky"! This is how the journey of capturing good and bad memories for himself and his fellow soldiers started; Pinky went wherever Dalanie went. If you missed the presentation, or want to see it again, click here . Learn more about Dalanie and his organization on his website.

Club Outing - WCU Women's Rugby

Workshop leader Svenne Juul arranged for special passes to allow sidelines access for photographers to sharpen their skills at photographing the exciting Rugby match at West Chester University. Many images, including this one by Svenne, can be seen on the website gallery.

Post-processing zoom group

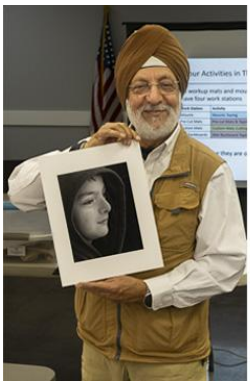


Continuing with a focus on color, Buzz Mossholder covered the photoshop color adjustments topics of HSL Adjustment Layer, Select Color Range, Correcting Casts, Saturation Masks, and Apply Images. This is an interactive zoom session where participants can ask questions at any time. If you would like to join the group, just send an email to Buzz.

Mentor/Mentee Meeting

Jennifer Powell presented a very informative presentation on some of the basics of composition in photography. She shared examples of how these guidelines lead the viewer's eye through an image. Mentees were anxious to learn more, so she then demonstrated where to find some helpful compositional tools on her laptop. Attendees then broke into smaller groups for more personal help - a great way to learn in a friendly atmosphere.

Mats and Mounts Workshop



Proudly displaying finished images: Navjot Hanspal, Lorraine Giattini, Matt Keller, and Jean Ley.

Participants enjoyed a fun afternoon of presentation, demonstration, and hands-on photo matting and mounting. Everyone brought two photos and learned how to create professional looking mats and mounts for their photos.

Kudos and thank you to workshop leader Jim Samanen and his workshop assistants Peter Guman, Connie Snyder and Norman Maynard, shown in this photo by Workshop Chairperson Jim Wilson. A lot of advance preparation went into this one!

Competition - Worm's Eye View

The theme encouraged us to present a fresh perspective on the world we live in, highlighting the beauty and intricacies that go unnoticed by our human eyes, and can only be seen from the perspective of a worm. This month we are featuring the four winners in the assigned category.

This quote from first place winner Bob Friedman, shows how he was motivated by the assignment, and how his careful planning and perseverance paid off with this amazing image, entitled "Watch Out" - the blue ribbon winner in the Assigned Monochrome projected category.

"I actually had that image in my head as soon as the comp list came out. I went to NYC (just this past weekend) and stood on the corner of Broadway and 45th, 44th, and 43rd and kneeled on the ground, flipped up the articulating screen, and waited for the light to turn green to capture the people walking from ground level. Thank God for mirrorless digital—rapid frames per second and you can shoot a hundred shots. You cross your fingers and hope for the best. The hardest part was getting up from the ground!! " - Bob Friedman

First place ribbons were also awarded to: Sally Loken, Assigned Color print ,"Young Croc"; Eric Loken, Assigned Monochrome Print, "Mushrooms in the Lawn"; and Betsy Wilson, Assigned Color Projected, "Fallen".

To see all images in the competition, go to Competitions / Competitions Results on the CCCC website, then choose the competition (eight categories) and be sure to check the little box "Display all images".

Important Announcements:

Special Presentation!! CCCC will host a virtual presentation in collaboration with Lehigh Valley Photography Club and Morton Arboretum Photographic Society that will feature well-known landscape photographer, Colleen Miniuk on Tuesday, January 16th. There is no charge for our members, but you'll want to register early to reserve your spot - once this program is opened up to other clubs, it will be sure to fill up quickly. Register **here** and click the "Register Now" button and use the code Miniuk-CCC. Connection information will be included in your registration confirmation and in follow-up reminder emails.

Save the Date!

Holiday Party at Timothy's
Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Get ready for some holiday fun at Timothy's where we'll have a room all to ourselves. Detailed information coming soon!

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Group - *November 5*

These members of the Monthly Critique Group sure look like they're having fun! This members-only group met at Buzz Mosholder's house last month and a zoom session, held at the same time, was hosted by Svenne Juul. What a great opportunity to have some fun with photo friends and get some constructive feedback on your images. If you're interested, contact Jim Samanen and he'll get you all set up!

Shown here l to r: Jim Samanen, Norman Maynard, Carolyn Mead, Buzz Mosholder, and Tom Bernard. Anita Bower took the photo!

Members Forum -November 8

Architectural Photography
Jennifer Powell

Architectural images are quite different from landscape, macro, street, and all other genres of photography. In this members' forum, Jennifer will explain how to get your best shots and which is the best equipment for this popular type of photography.

Monthly Meeting - November 8

Guest Speaker - Ray Schneider
The Intentional Photographer

Creating a more interesting image requires perceiving your subject more deeply, capturing its essence, and deciding what makes it unique -and if your connection is heartfelt, that's even better, because creating great images is more than a technical pursuit. Our guest speaker will share his ideas that have helped him create more memorable images. If you want a sneak peak of his work, check out his website.

Lensbaby Workshop by Cathy Kuhlman
November 11

Our very own Lensbaby Ambassador, Cathy Kuhlman, will lead a fun and creative workshop in which she'll share her knowledge and techniques on making creative images with these unique lenses. She'll have a wide variety of lenses to fit several camera bodies that you can experiment with and see if Lensbaby is for you! Register soon, as space is limited. Get all the details here.

Want some inspiration? Check out an amazing portfolio of Lensbaby images by Cathy on her website.

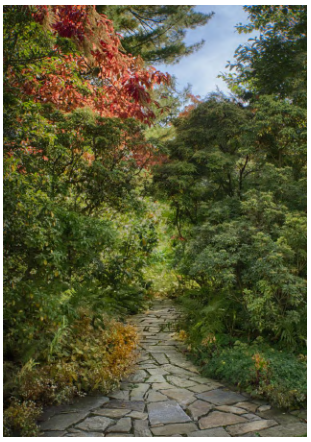
Mentor/Mentee Meeting - November 15

The Mentor/Mentee presentation this month will focus on *Workflow*. Jennifer Powell, chairperson of this group, will demonstrate her workflow beginning at the point she imports her photos into the computer; she'll also show some new features in Lightroom. Questions and open discussion will follow and other mentors also share their workflow. If you want to join in this worthwhile instructional benefit, either as a mentor or mentee, contact Jennifer Powell.

Post-Processing Zoom Group - November 19

Buzz Mossholder will continue to focus on Color in PhotoShop in this members-only benefit that is held via Zoom only. This month's topics are selective color, gradient maps, and LUT's. Those of you who registered for this should already have all the details in an email from Buzz. If you'd like to join in the learning and fun, contact Buzz.

Upcoming Outings:



Chanticleer, A Pleasure Garden November 4

If you've never been to Chanticleer, here's a great opportunity to visit this lovely 48-acre botanical garden built on the grounds of the Rosengarten Estate in Wayne, PA. Walking trails, ponds, multiple garden areas, and ruins are just a few of the many photo opportunities you'll find here. Image by Betsy Wlson.

Poole Forge Covered Bridge - November 18

The historical Pool Forge Park in Narvon stands out as having diverse photo ops including the Ironmaster's Mansion, Paymaster's Building, spring house, two tenant houses, and ruins of a lime kiln. We will meet at the Poole Forge site at 11:00 o'clock for a special guided tour by the Executive Director of the site, Dr. Dawn Rise Ekdal. Everyone is invited to meet for lunch after the shoot at the Amish restaurant, September Farm. Image by Marc Horton.

Diving Meet: WCU vs College of NJ - November 11

Sports Photographers Unite! This is a bit different from fast moving sports like football and rugby. Here's a chance to capture disciplined athletes as they gracefully twist, turn, and fly through the air and enter the water with minimum splashing - no belly flops here! If you want to join in, contact Svenne Juul. Image by Svenne Juul.

Dates to Remember

Sat, Nov 4	Club Outing - Chanticleer
Sun, Nov 5	Monthly Critique Group
Wed, Nov 8	Members Forum and Monthly Meeting
Sat, Nov 11	Lensbaby Workshop
Sat, Nov 11	Club Outing - Dive Meet WCU vs TCNJ
Wed, Nov 15	Mentor-Mentee Group - in person only
Sat, Nov 18	Club Outing - Poole Forge Covered Bridge
Sun, Nov 19	Post-Processing Zoom Group
Wed, Nov 29	Monthly Competition -Ha! Ha! That's so Funny!

The Volunteer Spotlight shines on a somewhat newer member and volunteer, ***Norman Maynard****, this month.*

Norman joined CCCC in January of 2022, so he's just about coming up on the two year mark, and has been an active participant in many of our club activities since he joined.

He has enjoyed his time with the club and has been focused on trying to attend meetings and outings, learn, and help out whenever he can. He provided some valuable assistance at the recent Mats and Mounts workshop held last month. Who knows, perhaps there is an official volunteer role in his future!!

He got his official start in photography when he was about eight or nine years old and his godparents gave him a Kodak Brownie Bullet camera for Christmas (which by the way, he still has though has no idea how). He remembers how excited he was to bring the film rolls to Rexall Drug Store (he's dating himself here!) and then being flustered when they all came back blank! We're glad to see that he overcame his frustrations and persevered!

He continued to dabble in and out with his hobby over the years, including learning how to use a darkroom in college. It was when he got his first digital camera - another Kodak - with an impressive 1.2 MP resolution and what he termed "*kind of eon-ic lag time*" that he really got hooked! That was somewhere around 1994 and he was using Photoshop 2.0.

He's still trying to determine what is his favorite type of photography and as he looks through his collection to see what he actually shoots, it's mainly travel and landscapes - "*trees don't ask if you can take just one more photo of them and 75 of their best friends!*" Then he looks at other people's photos and decides it's the portraits that he likes most! On further consideration, he says, "*Maybe equal parts because it's something I cannot do, and because ultimately, people are the most fascinating thing on the planet.*" As an afterthought, he might disagree with that!! Bottom line? "*It's all about light, I think. Maybe I'm a moth.*"

When asked how he's grown and been inspired by CCCC members, here's his response: "*Oh my gosh, all the time! I have this Catholic-upbringing sensibility that still lingers, in which people who are excellent are rarified and somehow anointed by a higher being. I love meeting someone and getting to know them and then they put up this photo that really makes your heart sing. It's inspiring, but it's also about revelation. We're so eager to keep our inner lives hidden, but then you catch a glimpse like that and you can't help but like the person, and want to reciprocate in some way. Really, it's liberating.*"

Norman is currently the Assistant Head of School for a small, independent school in Silver Spring, Md., which he finds odd to be a remote position, but it works. He taught for 25 years and sometimes misses teaching, but is happy to have a more flexible schedule. His comments on teaching: "*Teaching is intense; it takes a lot out of you, and I'm okay with not having to expend that kind of energy all the time.*"

Between his work schedule and his wife's "honeydew" list he doesn't have a lot of extra time. He is looking forward to hopefully retiring in three or four years, which will free up more time for him. He does enjoy painting oils and acrylics, and ironically his favorite subjects are portraits and figures! He hopes to build a small studio next spring

Norman's parting words are heartfelt: "*Thank you for all the work people do to make this club happen. It's a wonderful life here in Chester County, and the CCCC is a great way to engage with it.*"

New Members

This month we're happy to welcome back returning member ***Tom Weishaar!*** He was a member several years ago and missed all the fun at CCCC. We all look forward to meeting and re-meeting you and getting to know you all over again!

Members in the News

If you saw last month's Members' Forum, you know **Jim Samanen** enjoys showing and selling his artwork. Here's your chance to see him in action! He'll be at three different shows this fall. Link to each are listed below:

Chester County Craft Guild November Fine Craft Fair - November 4 and 5

Haverford Guild of Craftsmen Art & Fine Craft Show - November 11 and 12

CCCG Winter Fine Craft Fair, Ludwig's Corner - December 9 and 10

Competition Themes

The assigned theme this month is ***Ha! Ha! That's so Funny!*** We say our club is *fun*, but let's see how *funny* your photographs are in this month's competition!

If you need some inspiration or more information with this theme or any other monthly theme, check our website under club information>competition info>2023-2024 competition themes, or simply click here.

Learning Opportunities

Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions - November 5

There are only a few more days left to get in on this amazing webinar featuring five great photo-educators that will be recorded for later viewing. The $40 discount rate is available ONLY to photo club members who use the code PARTNERCLUB to register. Check it out here. You won't want to miss this one!

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.....

Valerie Dunn

For her hilarious image of these two Chacma Baboons

Are they sharing funny jokes or is that a little ear nipping and nuzzling going on?