Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

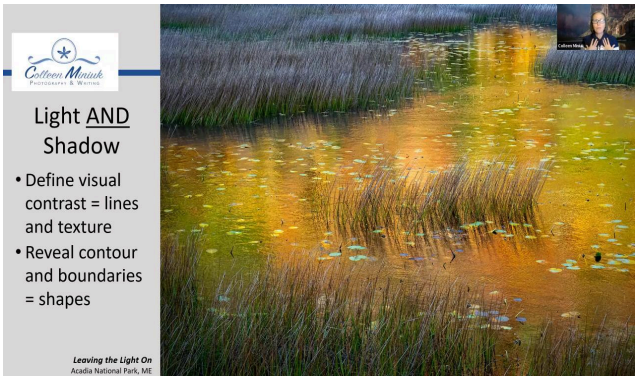
February 2024 Newsletter

Be a Rule Breaker!!

Last month CCCC, Lehigh Valley Photography Club, and the Morton Arboretum Photographic Society joined forces to bring us an amazing presentation by the multi-talented landscape photographer and writer, Colleen Miniuk.

We've all been instructed to follow the rules of composition: Rule of Thirds, Leading Lines, Primary Subject, Foregrounds, etc, etc. Sure, we need to know the rules - so we can break them!! As you probably have gathered, Colleen's topic was "*No More Rules - Using Human Perception in Composition.*"

Some of her key points were to: shift our thinking from a primary subject to relationships; determine what you want your viewer to see; visualize your message before composing or shooting; and know what gets you excited and why you're shooting what you are. She talked about lines, layers, and light and how your orientation determines the feeling of your image. For example, horizontal conveys peace and harmony; vertical evokes feelings of drama, energy, and excitement; and a square orientation is stable and symmetrical. Also, the position of your element in the frame will change the meaning you want to convey to your viewers. An object in the center of the frame is at rest, while an object placed along the rule of thirds line is dynamic and energetic, and an object placed near the edge of the frame is leaving or trying to escape.



This is only a fraction of what she shared, but you get the idea. Compose your images based on what you're feeling and what you want your viewers to feel and don't worry about following the rules! Compose for feeling and meaning, and of course, what is aesthetically pleasing to you.

One of the tenets of CCCC is education and continuous learning to grow your photography, and offering special presentations like this is one of the ways we do this. Our monthly meetings, members forums, outings, and all our other programs are geared towards inspiring us to become the best we can be - and of course, to have fun while doing it!

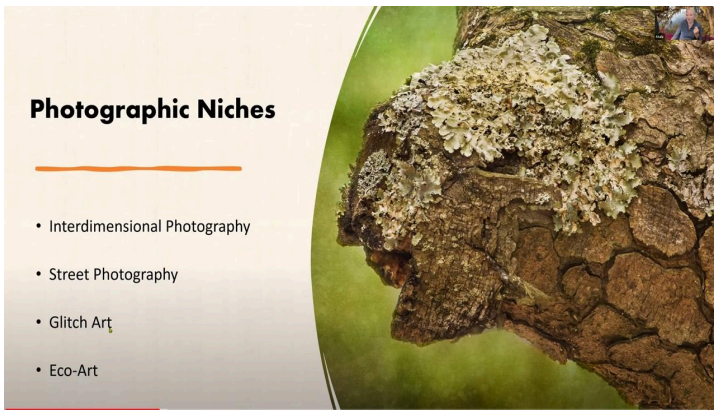
If you missed it, or want to watch it again, click here for a link and the passcode. You must be logged in to the CCCC website as this is for members only. It will be available for a short time, so if you want to watch it, do it soon! More about Colleen and her photography on her website.

January Highlights:

Club Outing - Graffiti Pier

CCCC photographers enjoyed a breezy day at the amazing graffiti pier in Philadelphia. After navigating a path to the semi-hidden entrance, photographers were immersed in a magical odyssey of crumbling concrete walls, marked by spray-painted political statements, messages of hope, and colorful artistry. Caught in action photographing the artwork are CCCC members Samantha Dutill and Tom Weishaar. A few brave adventurers like Chris Shigley even climbed up a tree to get on top of the abandoned coal pier. Check the gallery of images on the CCCC website.

Members Forum: Glitch Eco-Art Photography

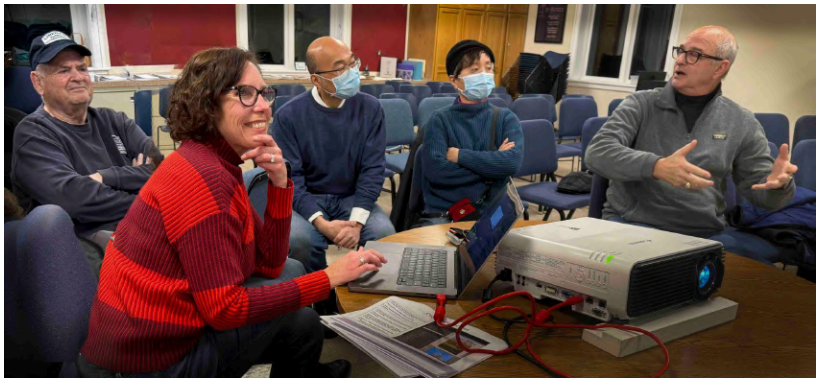


Our own Atala Toy delivered a thought-provoking presentation on Glitch Eco-Art Photography during the Members Forum. Through her photography, Atala celebrates the life-forms who look after our plants, deserts, forests and parks. She shared fascinating photos and stories about nature beings that she has collected on her photographic journeys. The recording link is here if you missed this one!

Monthly Meeting:
Guest Speaker - Huibo Hou
"The Power of Simplicity"

Huibo mesmerized the audience with her amazing black and white landscape images. In this presentation, she delved deep into a few ideas and techniques in seeking such simplicity, both in the field and during the postprocessing. This presentation truly inspired us towards creating impactful black and white landscape images. It was one of the best presentations that we have had. Kudos to Ginia for a great find! That recording is here.

Mentor/Mentee Meeting - Lightroom Workflow Basics



Hands-on practice at this session helped attendees to become familiar with and understand some best practices of how to import photos and organize them. Led by Jennifer Powell, small groups huddled to put what they learned into Lightroom. Lots of questions, and lots of answers!

Club Outing - Battleship New Jersey

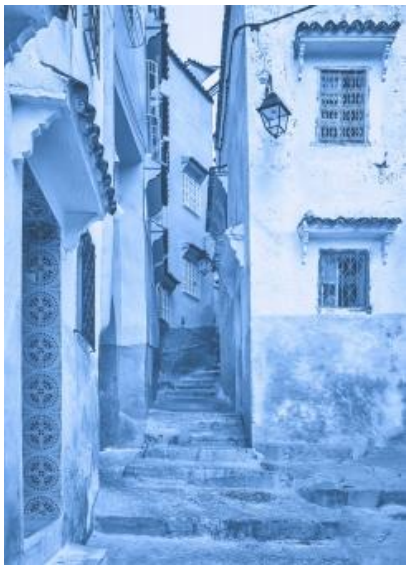
In between days of cold, snow, and rain, there was one beautiful day where a small group of determined photographers met at this massive, and most decorated of warships. She's close to three football fields in length and could accommodate 1900 troops! She's (that's ship talk!) seen action in several major wars from 1942-1991. A must see for history buffs before it leaves Camden sometime in 2024.

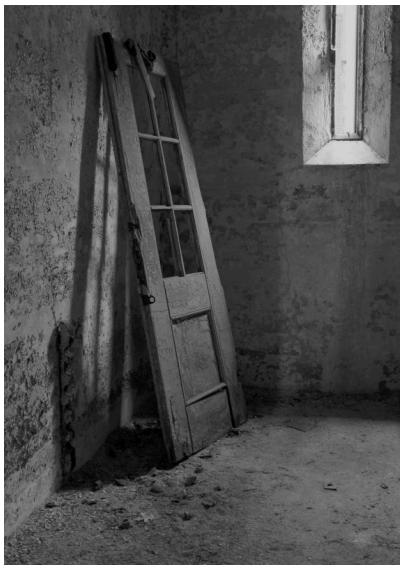
Check out the images in the gallery.

Competition - Mono Color

What a challenging assignment - Mono color could mean black and white, but in this case it means one color -- green, blue, red, yellow – anything to convey a mood, evoke a sense of nostalgia, or provoke thought, all through the skillful use of a single dominant color. Guest judge Frank Smith provided thoughtful insight and constructive suggestions.

First Place ribbons were awarded to: Bob Friedman in the assigned digital color category for "Sunshine at Kuerner Farm", and to Debbie Laverell in the assigned digital monochrome category for "Winterthur Japanese Maple".





Jim Samanen earned the first place ribbon in the assigned print color category with "Chefchaouen Blue", and Denise Molzahn won the blue ribbon for her entry in the assigned print monochrome category for "Cell Door". Congratulations to all!

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".

Don't Miss Out on These Two Events - Register Now!

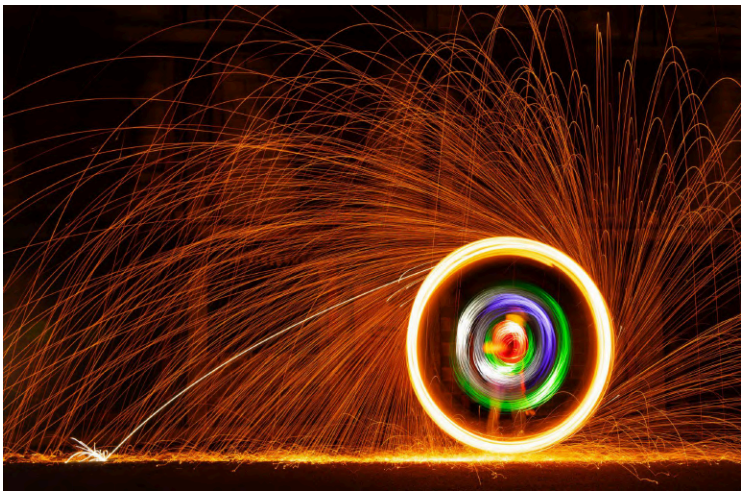
Central Park Bus Trip Saturday, April 20

The upcoming bus trip to Central Park on April 20 is filling up, so if you plan to go, reserve your seat now! Don't get left out in the cold, although we put in our order for warm and wonderful spring weather that day!! What a bargain at $93 per person, which includes a full afternoon of shooting in the park, followed by a sunset shooting opportunity in Brooklyn on the way home. You can explore on your own or join an experienced ex-pat New Yorker, our very own, Howard Sundwall! Invite your friends, significant other, or fellow shutterbugs!

Registration is quick and easy - just click here!

If you're on the fence, just look at these amazing images from a past trip by Svenne Juul (left) and Connie Snyder (right). Need more inspiration? Check out the CCCC galleries from previous trips to Central Park - amazing images are to be found in abundance! Central Park June, 2019 and Central Park, November, 2015

Fire-Spinning Workshop - Friday, April 26



Register now for this exciting fire-spinning workshop. Mark Bergkvist of the Photography Workshop, and long-time CCCC member will lead this unique and fun workshop for CCCC members only. Better yet -the normal $69 fee will be reduced to $39 (plus $2 PayPal fee) for our club members! Don't wait, as space is limited and it is filling up quickly. Click here for registration info. Image shown by Carol DeGuiseppi at a previous workshop.

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Group - February 4

Looking for some inspiration on a cold Sunday afternoon? Look no farther than the Monthly Critique Group! This members-only group meets both in person and via Zoom, typically on the first Sunday of each month. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend time with photo friends and get some constructive critique from your peers. Sound like this is for you? Contact Jim Samanen and he'll get you all set up!

Members Forum - February 14 - Zoom Only

Be Crazy - Think Outside the Box with Robert Friedman

If you've seen any of Bob's images in our monthly competitions, you know he definitely thinks outside the box and has fun with his images! Join us from the comfort of your own home to see how he creates his whimsical and fun works of art. Bob's image shown here was awarded a First Place ribbon in a recent competition.

Monthly Meeting - February 14 - Zoom Only

The Art of Seeing and Visualization Guest Speaker, Bert Sirkin

This presentation is all about fine-tuning how we see as photographers. Seeing is the first step to visualizing, and visualizing is how we see photographically. Bert will teach us how to visualize our images before hitting the shutter, which is critical to understanding how to craft compelling and meaningful images. Sound interesting? Join in via Zoom!

Mentor/Mentee Meeting - February 21

The mentees want some instruction on Camera Settings, so that will be the focus for this month. Mentor leader, Jennifer Powell, plans the sessions based on requests from mentees to ensure they get what they want. If you're interested in learning from some of your more experienced peers, you might want to check out these beneficial meetings - in-person at Westminster Church.

Upcoming Outings:

WCU vs Lock Haven Basketball - February 3

Sports Photographers Unite! Get ready for an exciting afternoon of college basketball at its finest! See and shoot both women's and men's games with courtside access! A perfect way to spend an afternoon with other photo and sports enthusiasts. Our courtside access is limited, so if you want in, let Svenne know in advance!

Hopewell Furnace - February 17

If you enjoy American history, especially the era of the Industrial Revolution, you won't want to miss this outing! Hopewell Furnace showcases an early American landscape of industrial operations from 1771-1883. The park's 848 acres include historic structures, walking areas, animals, and more. Many great photo opportunities like the one here by Eva Connor from a previous outing await you!

Middle Creek Snow Geese - March 2

Such an amazing sight and sound as tens of thousands of snow geese swirl above the lake at Middle Creek Wildlife Area in Lancaster County. Get this on your calendar so you can create images like this one by Fred Silverbook.

Dates to Remember

Sat, Feb 3	Club Outing -WCU vs Lock Haven Basketball
Sun, Feb 4	Monthly Critique Group
Wed, Feb 14	Members Forum and Monthly Meeting (Both via Zoom Only)
Sat, Feb 17	Club Outing - Hopewell Furnace
Sun,Feb 18	Post-processing Zoom group
Wed, Feb 21	Mentor/Mentee Meeting
Wed, Feb 28	Monthly Competition

Member Spotlight

This month the spotlight is shining on long, long-time member, ***Sally Riddle***

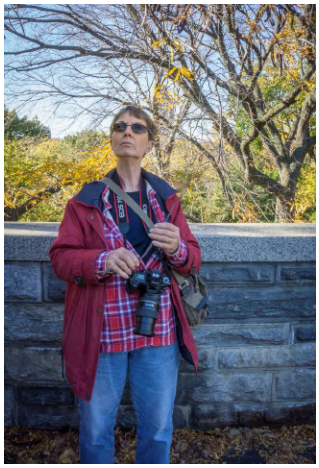
Sally admits she had to do a bit of research to remember how long she's been a member of CCCC, and when she came across an old newsletter (shown at the end of this newsletter), realized she was an active member way back in 1988 when the club met in the basement of a bank in downtown West Chester!

During this time she wore many volunteer hats. For two years she was responsible for recruiting and coordinating judges for the competitions; the internet has made that much easier than it was - no Zoom back then! She also helped with membership for a few years as well as planning and organizing the end-of-the year party and Christmas party.

Sally got her first camera before going to Camp Tweedale at the age of seven and earned her photography badge as a Girl Scout. She took some classes at the vocational school in Coatesville and several at the Chester County Art Association and was really hooked. One Christmas her husband and parents surprised her with a darkroom set up. Looking back, she shared, "*All the post-processing tools available now are amazing, but there was something so magical about watching your image pop up on the sheet of paper in the darkroom!*"

Her favorite photo genres are landscapes and informal portraits, and one of the things she loves about our club is that it makes her try new things and stretch her imagination. "*Our club (whether 30+ years ago or now) has always been sharing and caring, helping and mentoring each other. I've never sensed any "wicked" competition among our members, and our outings and social events enable us to get to know each other on another level. All of this creates confidence and encourages growth.*"

Sally was a corporate administrative assistant for many years before changing direction and working at the vocational high school in Coatesville and then at Jennersville. She was the Attendance Officer while also working with at-risk students as well as serving as an advisor for SkillsUSA. After surviving six teenagers of her own, she never imagined how much she would enjoy working with teens. There was never a dull day!



She has always volunteered in her community and usually found it to be very rewarding. She tutored veterans living in a shelter who wanted to return to work; was President of the Friends of Springton Manor Farm and served on the board for many years; she served on the Board of Bridge of Hope, a program for homeless women with children; and she currently volunteers at the Coatesville Library and the Bondsville Mill Park in East Brandywine Township. We can all agree that Sally is a very busy person!

Sally also enjoys gardening, which is not surprising since she grew up on a small farm. More recently, they started raising sheep and six or seven ewes and a ram quickly became twenty! A few years ago, she hosted a CCCC outing and members enjoyed photographing sheep and lambs, a 200+ year old barn, and her spring flower beds. In closing, Sally shared that she is forever grateful for being part of this wonderful organization.

New Members

Scott Ashenfelter and Rick Pulin are our newest members and we'd like to extend a warm welcome to CCCC. We look forward to getting to know you and your photographic styles and hope you enjoy all the club has to offer!.

Members in the News

A big shout-out to **Lee Ann Embry** for her first ever sale of one of her photographs. The image here "*Hogsmeade*" sold at the Wayne Art Center Gallery that was featured at Yuletide at Devon last month. This was a juried show that had 1200 submissions, so way to go Lee Ann!! If you've ever entered into a juried show, you know this is a big deal, so be sure to give Lee Ann your congratulations when you see her!

Opportunities to Show Your Work

Phillips Mill Photographic Exhibition - 2024 Call for Art

The prestigious 2024 Phillips' Mill Photographic Exhibition follows a celebrated tradition of showcasing fine art photography from the local region and beyond. The exhibition will display printed photographs at Phillips' Mill in New Hope, a historic stone gristmill repurposed and designed for presentation of artwork. Get details and registration information here.

Learning Opportunities

Virtual Creative Photography Conference

If you're looking for a way to beat the winter blues and get ready for all that spring shooting, this 2-day virtual conference may be just what you need. Well known photographer Hazel Meredith of Meredith Images hosts this for the 7th time and is joined by seven seasoned photographers ready to share their tips and inspire you in your photo journey. It's February 24-25 and you can find all the information and registration details here.

WOW! - Photography Boot Camp I / Camera & Exposure Basics

There's still time to register for this Boot Camp and get some great instruction at a special discounted price for CCCC members! Registration fee: normally $199; for CCCC members **only $50!**

Join in this FUN and INTERACTIVE introductory photography course! In this five-session course, you'll gain a solid understanding of exposure and your camera's most vital buttons and dials, and when and how to use them. We'll also explore essential compositional elements to help you create compelling images.. If you own a DSLR or Mirrorless camera, this class comes highly recommended. Join us and unlock your photography potential! Nine dates to choose from - **the next session starts February 7!** Watch for an email with the discount code.

More info at Photography Workshop website scroll down to Winter/Spring Classes and Workshops for registration info and dates. This offer applies to Boot Camp 1 only.

Competition Tips

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the assigned theme for February is ***"Romance is in the Air."*** If you need some inspiration or ideas, click here.

If you have info you would like considered in an upcoming monthly newsletter, please contact newsletter editors Carol DeGuiseppi or Betsy Wilson.

A Trip Down Memory Lane

Many thanks to Sally Riddle, who's featured in this month's Member Spotlight for the opportunity to take a peek into the past of CCCC.

Take a look at *The Official Newsletter of Chester County Camera Club* circa 1988.

Some things never change. They put an emphasis on education, with the use of instructional videos, had competitions, and celebrated the success and accomplishments of members.

Some things do change! We now have a digital newsletter, which we hope you'll all agree that it's informative and entertaining, and you look forward to reading it each month! Competitions were prints and slides, now it's print and digital. And it looks like Kodak Gold films were just making their debut, now we have updates to LR and PS! It looks like they also had an annual assignment. While we no longer do this as a group, consider giving yourself an assignment in the form of a project to photograph a certain location over the course of several months or a particular theme.

Whatever the differences, we're happy to see the club is still going strong and encouraging and inspiring photographers of all levels!

PICS

Nov. 1988

The Official Newsletter of the Chester County Camera Club

Volume 2, Number 2

Coming Attractions

A second meeting will be held in November. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday we will meet the fifth Wednesday, the 30th. Our program for the meeting will be instructional video on Composition. A discussion period will follow. Previous instructional video nights have met with great success. A lot of good ideas have been exchanged. Please mark your calendars so you don't forget, the fifth Wednesday, November 30, 7:30 pm.

The only meeting in December takes place on the 14th. The program will be on macro photography. Learn about this very interesting aspect of photography. Also for this meeting please bring your camera and an extra lens you have. There will be an open discussion of the likes and dislikes you have for your equipment.

Assignment: Ridley Creek Park

Ridley Creek Park, located in nearby Delaware County, provides a wide vista of picture taking possibilities. From the colonial plantation to the manor house to the many acres of grass and woodlands, Ridley Creek is a place for all seasons. **It is our assignment for this year.** This is an opportunity to let your creative juices flow.

Take time to visit the park, explore its many possibilities, and plan your pictures. The competition will not be until late Spring so there will be ample opportunity to photogoraph in all its lovely aspects. Maps are available at the manor house. And remember, wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to hike.

Competition Winners

The first competition of the Fall, an open competition, brought out a variety of prints and slides providing the judges with some very tough decisions. In the slide division first place was won by Sonia Schaeffer, *Portrait of a Young Girl*; second, Russ Reis, *Heather*; a tie for third, Ralph DeFazio, *Face in the Clouds* and Russ Reis, *S.P. Chickadee*. Arnold Galer took first and second in the print division with *Still Waters* and *Misty Maine*. *Third place went to Creighton Murphy with Momma's Boy.*

At the conclusion of the competition a time of constructive critique was shared.

The second meeting in October featured our summer assignments; action, Chester County Landmarks, and country fairs. Winners in slides were: Action - 1st *Jimmy Conners Pro Indoor*, Russ Reis; 2nd - *On The Line*, Shirley Johnson and 3rd - *The Entertainer*, Shirley Johnson. Chester County Landmarks - *Washington's Headquarters*, Arnold Galer; *Wait Till You See The Whites of Their Eyes*, Lois Eshleman and *Albertson's Barn*, Russ Reis. The country fair category was swept by Arnold Galer with *The Prize*, *Waiting to be Won*, and *Refreshments*. As for prints, only first place was awarded in action with the ribbon going to Ralph deFazio for *DuPont Farm* and in landmarks to *Knox's Bridge by Arnold Galer*. There were no entrants for country fairs.

Who's who and What's what

Long time club member Herb Garrison has left us for the upper mid-west. The Garrisons are now living in Michigan, but he says his heart is still with the local club. Herb's new address is 6612 Evergreen Dr., Portage MI 49008.

The Chester County Historical Society is now showing an exhibit on 100 years of Chester County photography. Admission for non-members is only $2.00. And the gallery is open on Wednesday night until 8 pm. Why not stop in before a club meeting?

Margie Supplee is now wearing a lovely diamond on THAT finger. Congratulations Margie and Andy! We know where there are wedding photogaphers when that big day arrives.

Shirley Johnson has taken on judging of a different sort. She's now qualified to judge state preliminary pageants for the Miss America Scholarship program. Presently her judging activities are in Delaware. Husband, Jim, who is usually her chauffeur enjoys Shirley's new interest too.

Ralph DeFazio is touting the merits of the new Kodak Gold films.

He recommends them for their beautiful resolution.