



Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

May 2021 Newsletter

Take a Hike, Covid!!



Spring is here, people are getting vaccinated and able to be out and about more, but it seems Covid is still hanging around. We all want to be done with it and graciously (or maybe not so graciously) tell Covid to just Take a Hike. If only it were so easy! This virus is leaving on its own terms.

An alternative would be to take a hike ourselves, or take a bike, or take a boat, or just get out and take a walk! What better way to connect with nature and get away from the hustle and bustle of traffic, noise, and in some cases even people, than to get out in the fresh air and enjoy your surroundings while getting some great exercise.

Our area has a wide variety of trails and waterways for doing all of these activities. Check this [listing of the best hiking trails PA](#), or stay closer to home on Chester County [Parks + Trails](#). Biking on old [rail trails](#) is a great way to trade in four wheels



for two and hit the backcountry. If you decide you'd rather paddle down the Brandywine, check out [Northbrook Canoe Company](#) for a day trip close to home.



Whether you choose to take a hike, a bike, or a walk, be sure to take your camera! These images of CCCC photographers YiJiun Chen, George Chiodo, and Jim Wilson are just a sampling of what life looks like behind the scenes.

Enjoy!

April Highlights:



Members' Forum - AI Photography Tools by Bob Kelly

In the past four years, image editing software firms have engaged in a race to develop Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to enhance their products. Tools to reduce noise, increase sharpening, even replace a boring sky with a dramatic one like in Bob's example shown here, can help photographers enhance images faster and better than traditional editing



tools. CCCC member Bob Kelly explained in low-tech terms what AI is and how AI enhances many standard photo editing processes. He demonstrated the use of several of these tools and took us through the basic steps of enhancing and changing the overall look of some wonderful images. Bob's informative and sometimes entertaining presentation can be seen [here](#).

Club Outing: Shenks Ferry Wildflower Preserve



Left to right: Maureen Mulloney, Joe Hare, Linda Litwin, Corinne Masur

Outings coordinator, Svenne Juul, picked the perfect time for a visit to Shenks Ferry Wildflower Preserve in Lancaster County. Quite a variety of wildflowers were at their peak, including bluebells, spring beauties, trillium and ferns. CCCC photographers practiced macro photography and various depth-of-field choices to create stunning images of a multitude of flowers, and yes, even a beautiful little spider thanks to the observant Joe Hare. You can see images taken on the outing in the [club gallery](#).

Monthly Presentation – Rad Drew



Recording and Processing RAW on Your Mobile Phone

Internationally-recognized Rad Drew took us on an inspiring journey of Lightroom for mobile, an app that allows you to record and process images with Lightroom's powerful RAW editing tools on the iPhone and Android phones.

We learned how to make images in RAW format with the Lightroom Pro Camera, including HDR and Long Exposures. And Rad shared his six steps for processing RAW files to perfection in about two minutes using Lightroom's powerful RAW processing tools.



Workshop: Photography using Lighting by Bob Becker

In this two-part virtual workshop, Bob Becker addressed different types of lighting and how to set exposure when using lighting, both continuous and flash. He provided lots of basic information to demystify the intimidation many of us feel when it comes to artificial light sources. A second session, "Making the Most of Speedlites", followed two weeks later and focused on the use of speedlites in lighting your images. Thank you Bob, for such thorough and "illuminating" (pun intended) sessions! [Click here](#) for links to download a pdf of both slide show presentations.



Mentor Meeting - Action Photography by Svenne Juul



Embracing Motion Blur

What: Embrace that motion blur can be a powerful way to convey 'motion' and drive attention to remaining sharp elements

Steady, focused head balanced over pumping arms and legs



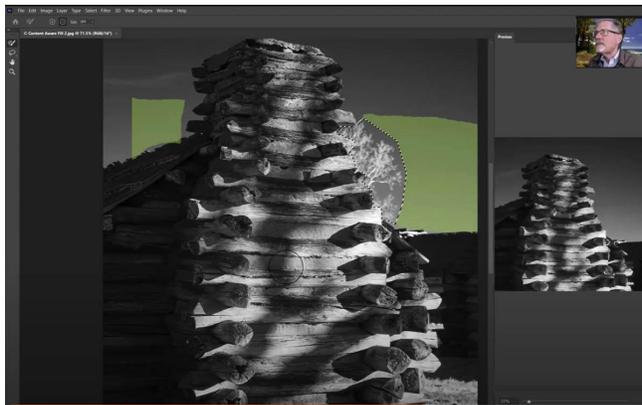
Shutter Speed: 1/60 s

Absolute chill and focus while travelling at speed



Shutter Speed: 1/30 s

Svenne Juul covered the basics and shared some techniques to achieve good action photos. He focused on sports photography and explained how and why to control focus, aperture, shutter speed and focal length. Perfect timing to learn about action photography for the April competition assigned topic of "Stop Action".



Buzz Mossholder then shared a few photoshop techniques with the group. Of particular interest to some was learning about "Content-Aware Fill" which easily replaces unwanted portions of an image such as power lines, or a distracting tree branch as shown in his live demonstration.

[Click here for links to videos.](#)

If interested in participating, mentees (those who want to learn) should email Mike Keba at m.keba32@gmail.com. Mentors (those interested in teaching) should email Buzz Mossholder at buzzmossholder@gmail.com

Club Outing: Azalea Explosion at Jenkins Arboretum

A terrific turnout of photographers enjoyed a beautiful spring morning at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon, PA. The world class collection of azaleas were at their peak, and there were many more native plants to enjoy and photograph in the tranquil woodlands. Many new members joined in the fun and it was nice to see old friends (long-time member Richard Donham) and new friends (new member Anu Soundararajan) engage in



conversation and exchange photo tips. CCCC member Arvid Bloom captured this tranquil reflection image of photographers relaxing by the pond. [Click here](#) to see many creative spring images in the gallery.



CCCC Book Auction success!



When the Chester County Camera Club unexpectedly became the beneficiary of 60 wonderful books about photography, the Steering Committee voted to share them with

members via an online auction. The books were about the history of photography, including an Ansel Adams autobiography, authors like W. Eugene Smith and Margaret Bourke-White, and subjects like the history of the Daguerreotype and Ellis Island and so much more. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we raised over \$300 that will be used for great events or speakers.

April Competition - "Stop Action"



We always learn a lot about how to improve our photography from the insightful comments by the guest judge of our competitions. And **Reed Hoffman** provided a wealth of helpful observations and suggestions. Reed has been an internationally-acclaimed professional photographer for over 30 years, and is a Nikon Legend Behind the Lens. He taught us that photographing something is very different than looking at it, and he gave solid advice on choosing your main subject and then positioning and framing it to create a compelling image. Thank you Reed!



First Place for "Stop Action" went to Donald Paul for this amazing image titled "Side by Side at Ocean Breeze". The judge awarded it with a 27 - the highest score possible. Congratulations Donald!



Congratulations to the other blue ribbon winners - Nima Marsh in Open Color for "Preening Egrets", Donald Paul in Assigned Monochrome for "Over the Bar", and Debbie Laverell in Open Monochrome for "Lonely Tree in Death Valley".

Upcoming Events:



***End of Year Awards and Recognition:
Wednesday, June 9! Details coming!***

It's Election Time! Wednesday, May 12

Our current officers are doing such a great job, they've been nominated for a second term! Virtual voting will take place at the May 12 meeting.



Left to right: President - Ginia Apostolacus, Vice President - Carolyn Mead, Treasurer - Helen Wagner, Secretary - Pat Rhubottom, Members at Large - Steve Whitney and Paul Stewart

Monthly Critique Group - May 2

We're back on schedule this month and will meet on the first Sunday in May. Here's a chance to share your photographs and receive constructive feedback in a small group setting. This friendly and fun atmosphere exclusively for members, promotes camaraderie and learning. To join in the fun, simply let [Jim Samanen](#) know of your interest.

Members' Forum - May 5

Show us your Favorite Shot!

Do you have a favorite image that you'd like to share with the club and explain the details behind it? This doesn't necessarily have to be your best shot, just your favorite. Maybe it holds a special meaning or memory, or perhaps you challenged yourself in some way to capture this image. Details and instructions for submitting your image can be found [here](#).

Monthly Meeting - May 12

Compositing - Guest speaker, Jim Christensen

Compositing is the technique of combining two or more images, based on what you saw and photographed, or imagined, to create a single image. Join us as our guest speaker, Jim Christensen, takes the mystery out of compositing and demonstrates how he does this in PhotoShop. You can learn more about Jim and his photography on his [website](#).



Mentor / Mentee Outing - May 15

The Mentor/Mentee Group is taking their show on the road!! An outing is planned for Saturday, May 15 at Valley Forge Park. The exact time is yet to be determined, but you can be sure it will be a great learning experience. If you'd like to join in the fun, either as a mentee or a mentor, email [Buzz](#). Let him know what type/ brand of camera you have and he'll do his best to match folks up; mentees should also indicate what they hope to learn.

Members' Forum - June 16 - Bonus Session!!

"Art in Photography - The Search for Impact"

We're ending the "regular" season with a bonus Members' Forum, as we consider this topic to be of importance to all photographers.

A work of art "*expresses the creator's imagination, conceptual ideas, or technical skill, intended to be appreciated primarily for its beauty or emotional power,*" Club members Jim Samanen, Ted Goldman, and Navjot Hanspal will lead a very informative presentation, loaded with photographic examples and audience involvement, in which they will discuss the subjective nature and elements of Impact. Come join us as we explore the role of Impact in creating our most artful images.

Summer Challenge 2021

It's that time again! Time to think about the Chester County Camera Club Ultimate Summer Challenge!

Although we've been sheltering in place for over a year, it's time to dust off our cameras and start pushing some pixels. Stephanie Vacek and Anita Bower have selected another

exciting and challenging topic to keep us all on our toes!



Last year's Summer Challenge Crew at the first outing in West Chester

We are planning on two group outings, including dinner afterwards, in June and July. Hopefully all or most of us will have been vaccinated, thus lowering any risk. We'll wrap up at Helen Wagner's home for a potluck supper & photo slideshow in August.

Stay tuned for the official rollout of the Ultimate Summer Challenge in May!

May Outings:

[Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge - May 16](#)



Horseshoe Crabs, Frogs, Ducks, Birds, Fawns, and more! May is a busy month at Bombay Hook, so if you're a wildlife and nature lover, don't miss this! Comprising 15,978 acres along the eastern coast of Delaware, the area was established in 1937 as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory and wintering waterfowl along the Atlantic Flyway.

Mount Cuba - May 22

Join us as we embark on yet another amazing outing in the *Garden Capital of America*. People travel from afar to visit this wonderful and historic garden right in our backyard! Built in 1935, Mt. Cuba Center is the former home of [Lammot du Pont Copeland](#) and his wife, [Pamela Cunningham Copeland](#), prominent members of the community. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. If you've never been here, you won't want to miss it!!



Sleepy Hollow MX Motocross - May 30



Motocross racing is about as action-packed as action sports come, and the "Sleepy Hollow MX"-park provides spectators and photographers with excellent visibility to the action - close up!

This photo is from an article titled "[Tips on How to Photograph Motocross](#)" in *Fstoppers* magazine. You can also watch Svenne's presentation on [Action Photography](#) that he gave to the Mentor

Group in April. So, read up, watch up and get ready for some great action photography!

More Upcoming Outings:

Here are some of the upcoming photo meet-ups and club outings planned for the next several months, some of which have been rescheduled from earlier times. Keep an eye out for more information in emails and on the schedule page as it becomes available.

- Valley Preferred Cycling Center (June)
- Chester County Balloon Festival (September)
- The Race of Gentlemen in Wildwood, NJ (October)
- Hawk Mountain (October)
- Sultana Downrigging (October)

To receive regular updates of new outings in your email, sign up for the CCCC Meetup page! Signing up is easy and free at www.meetup.com

Dates to Remember

In-person gatherings will continue to be replaced with virtual and socially distant options until further notice. Be sure to check the [Schedule page](#) regularly for updates.

- Sun, May 2 [Monthly Critique Group](#)
- Wed, May 5 [Members' Forum](#)
- Wed, May 12 [Monthly Meeting](#)
- Sat, May 15 Mentor/Mentee Outing - [Valley Forge](#)
- Sun, May 16 Club Outing - [Bombay Hook](#)
- Sat, May 22 Club Outing - [Mount Cuba](#)
- Wed, May 26 [Monthly Competition](#)
- Sun, May 30 Club Outing - [Sleepy Hollow MX Motocross](#)
- Wed, June 9 End of Year Awards and Recognition
- Thu. June 10 Special presentation - [Nick Hanson on Focal Lengths](#)
- Wed, June 16 Bonus [Members' Forum](#)

Welcome to our Newest Members

One thing is for certain, meeting virtually over this past year had no negative effect on new members joining our club. We're happy to welcome the following who have joined since our last newsletter:

**Wendy Summer, Elaine Horton, Howard Horton,
Anuradha (Anu) Soundararajan, and Micheal Coll**

We look forward to getting to know all of you and your photographic styles in the coming months and hope you enjoy all the club has to offer!

Our Volunteer Spotlight is shining on Sheila Fredericks this month!

Volunteer Spotlight



This photo of Sheila was taken at a club outing to Baldwin's Book Barn. Could she have been lining up to shoot her award-winning "Doorway to Learning" image on the right that took First Place in our October competition?



Sheila joined our club around 2008 at the suggestion of Mike Hagen, a CCCC member who was teaching a photography class she was taking at the time. Also in that class were Bob Kelly, Paul "Stu" Stewart, and the late Paula Miller and they all joined together! She is one of our valued "tech people" and currently operates the computer that projects the competition images. She didn't miss a beat when we started meeting virtually, and once we're able to meet in person again, she'll be up front and live! .

In the early 2000s, Sheila was working as a photo editor for Leo Volz, another CCCC member and he taught her the basics of manual camera operations. She started taking photography classes through Chester County Night School, and soon was on her way to learning how to create better images.

Landscape photography is at the top of Sheila's favorite things to shoot, especially lighthouses. She has an incredible opportunity this July to photograph some of the best landscapes on the east coast in Maine. She will be part of a group of 25 educators on a STEAM (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **A**rts, **M**ath) expedition working with Acadia National Park, so get ready to see some amazing landscapes in next season's competitions! Additionally, she enjoys taking pictures with her students, regardless of the subject. Due to Covid restrictions this past year, her photography class became a photo composition class and her students recently started using a camera to explore the different areas of composition.

Sheila teaches middle/high school special needs students at The Concept School in Westtown, PA. She provides instruction in technology, coding, STEAM, and multimedia, including photography: she's discovered an added benefit in that teaching students (and doing research) her photography has improved. Her hobbies are right in line with her profession, as when she's not working she enjoys even more technology - gadgets, robots, 3D printing, and more!

She volunteers with [The Purple Feet Foundation](#), a group that helps inner city middle school students from Philadelphia and Harrisburg who want to do something in their lives. It teaches them about college, careers, and the choices they can make to help them achieve their goals. The core values they try to instill are character, commitment, and compassion. Sheila says the students she's worked with over the past several years are incredible, and

she's confident that through their hard work and determination they will become something.

Sheila is inspired by the weekly meetings where she continues to learn new techniques and ways to improve her photography. Her "inspiration and awe" comes from the amazing images in competition, and the photographers. She follows several members on Facebook, and loves to see the images they post there. She shared that she's learned so much and has seen so many awe-inspiring and breathtaking images over the years. Another important benefit of being involved with CCCC is making some very dear friends whom she cherishes.

Opportunities to Show Your Work



It's time once again for County Lines Magazine's annual [Chester County in Bloom Photo Contest](#). Enter your favorite blooming image that shows off the beauty of springtime in our area. Don't delay - the deadline for submissions is May 7th!

Members in the News



Fiona Keyes was recently accepted into the juried exhibition with The Regional Center for Women in the Arts for their virtual exhibition "By and About Women". The image that was accepted is "Lucy's Liberation". Here is a [link to the exhibition](#).

Congratulations to CCCC members for their acceptance into the [Pennsylvania Center for Photography's Odyssey Exhibition!](#) **Carol DeGuisseppi, Valerie Dunn, Fiona Keyes, Eric Loken, Sally Loken, Jim Samanen** and **Betsy Wilson** all have images in this juried show. The Exhibition will run online from April 30th - July 18th.

Learning Opportunities



If you've been to a photo conference along the east coast recently (the year of 2020 excluded for obvious reasons) chances are you may be familiar with [Hunt's Photo & Video](#). A New England family-owned business since 1889, they began to focus on photo equipment in the 1950's. They pride themselves on making personal service part of every purchase, whether in person or on-line. In addition to great sales and specials, they also offer a wide variety of educational classes for all levels of photographers at great prices, sometimes at no cost to you! Check out their list of [online courses](#) and follow them on [FaceBook](#) to get notifications of special live events and guest speakers. If you have specific questions about equipment, feel free to contact Noah at nbuchanan@huntsphoto.com.

Competition Tips and Techniques

The Assigned Theme for May is **Product Photography**.



How many times have you heard someone say it's all about marketing and presentation? Think about when you've seen a photo of something and your reaction was, "I just have to have one of those!" Here's your chance to create an image that will sell your product. No need to go anywhere special for this assignment. You can shoot a box of cereal, your favorite beverage, your latest creation in the kitchen, or something as simple as "The March of the Peeps" shown here by Carol DeGuisseppi. You can find more ideas and inspiration [here](#).

If you have any information you would like considered for an upcoming monthly newsletter, please contact newsletter editors [Carol DeGuisseppi](#) or [Betsy Wilson](#).

And the last laugh goes to...

Jim Wilson

for his image “Photo Butties” captured at the Jenkins Arboretum outing



No butts about it - two butts are better than one!
Especially photo butties sharing techniques and ideas!