



Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

February 2021 Newsletter

Photography in the Year of Covid... A Silver Lining!

It's been a year since the onset of Covid 19 in the US and it has affected all facets of life as we know it. Grocery delivery, more on-line shopping, mask wearing, social distancing, dining restrictions, cancelled trips, and working from home are just a few ways we've all had to deal with this dreadful pandemic. As photographers and CCCC members, we've become acquainted with Zoom meetings and workshops, and thanks to the quick thinking of our outings coordinator, Svenne Juul, we have had safe and socially distant outings.



Image credits clockwise: Soap bubble - Don Komerechka, Dahlia - Carol DeGuseppi, Butterfly wing - Don Komerechka, Water droplets - Carol DeGuseppi, Slinky - Carol DeGuseppi, Colorful abstract - Don Komerechka.

If there's a silver lining to all of this, it's that as photographers, we've been forced to explore options closer to home, in our neighborhoods, backyards, or even indoors. Our resourcefulness and creativity was put to the ultimate test. Our January guest speaker, Don Komarechka, and CCCC mentor, Carol DeGuseppi, both shared tips for capturing macro photos indoors or in your own backyard. There's no need to travel to exotic locations; when you have your camera and creativity, your options are unlimited!

January Highlights:

Members' Forum - Double Exposures

by Connie Snyder and Ginia Apostolacus



“Awesome images. Never thought about this route for stunning images.”
- comment by member Rick Maynard.

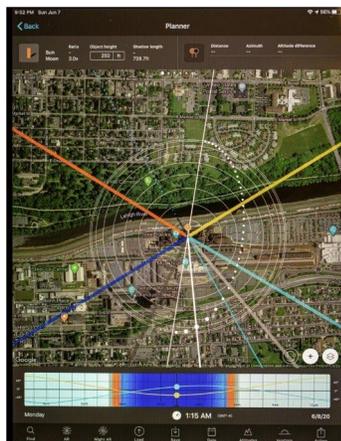
Seeing Double--Just when we hit the deep winter doldrums, we were offered a fresh perspective on how to make artistic double exposures. Creating double exposures both in-camera and in Photoshop is simple and fun.



Connie Snyder revealed the magic of creating compelling images right in your camera, followed

up by Ginia Apostolacus' demonstration on processing simple, yet impactful, double exposures using Photoshop. This presentation of double the fun demonstrated that the sky's the limit to take your photography to places you never imagined. Connie's in-camera double exposure is above right, and Ginia's photoshop version of a double exposure is on the left. [Click here to see the Zoom](#) presentation in its entirety, and [click here](#) to see more in-camera double exposures from Connie's website.

Workshop: PhotoPills - Basics of Using the Planner by Bob Becker



Perfect timing! CCCC members learned some of the basic tools in the app called PhotoPills, which has numerous programs useful for planning your photography projects and trips. It has been characterized as the Swiss Army Knife of photography applications. One of its most powerful programs is the Planner, which calculates sun, moon, milky way, meteor shower, and eclipse positions at any time in the future and from any location. PhotoPills teacher and new CCCC member Bob Becker provided in-depth explanations of how to use this versatile app to help us plan and get great shots.



That same evening, some brave photographers put what they learned into practice at a dark sky outing. This virtual workshop included a lot of questions as some members at home were practicing with the app as the program progressed. [Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation slides and a link to the video of the zoom presentation.



Club Outings: *Dark Sky photography*

A bitter wind on a chilly evening did not stop thirteen intrepid photographers from trekking out into the open farmlands in a remote location in Lancaster County. Outings leader Svenne Juul scouted out a dark sky location far from the interference of artificial lights, and obtained permission from a farmer to allow a bunch of frozen photographers to haul tripods and set up for long exposures in his dark fields.

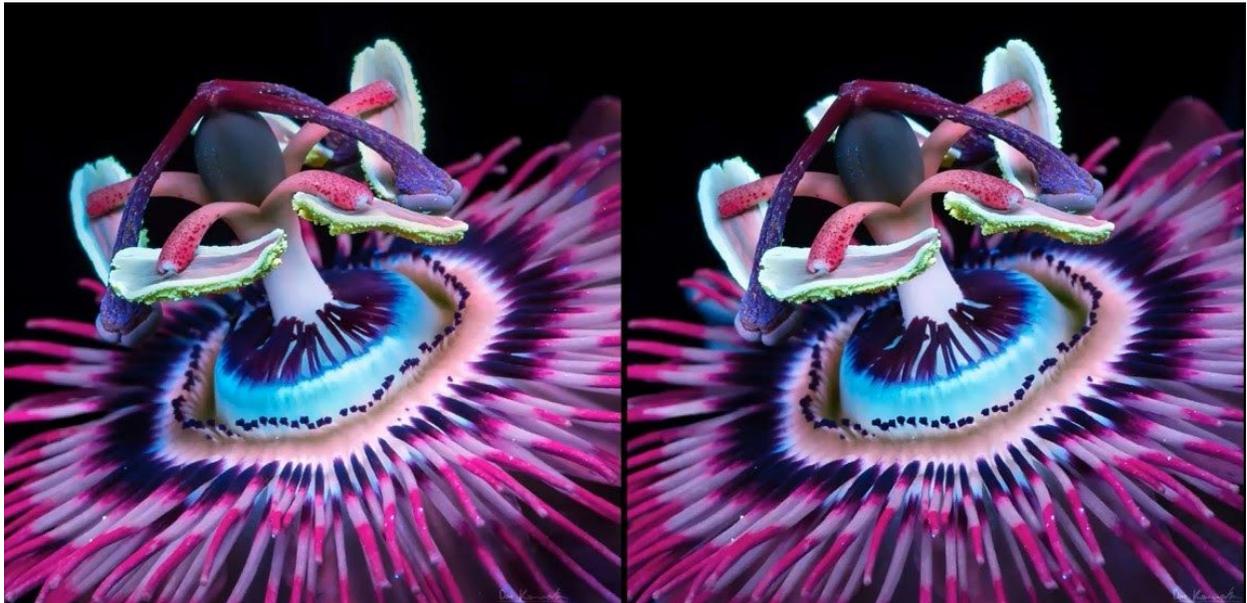


Fortunately, we all knew how to dress warmly after seeing last month's presentation by Bob Friedman on [dressing for cold weather photography](#). Thank you to Svenne, Bob Friedman and Bob Becker who all contributed their expertise to help us succeed in capturing night sky images like the amazing star trail image above by John Dolph.

Monthly Presentation – Don Komarechka: Down the Rabbit Hole – An Adventure in the Universe at Our Feet



Don Komarechka wowed us with his amazing macro images and explanations of how he created them. From auroras to pollen, insects to infrared, much of Don's photographic adventures revealed a deeper understanding of how the universe works. The self-proclaimed "geek" demonstrated his set-ups and his ever-evolving process of experimenting to find something new and unique.



One of the amazing images he shared is actually a 3D image, or a cross-view stereo image, which you can try here. You need to cross your eyes to get the full 3D effect. Your goal is to focus on the "middle" image that appears when you cross your eyes, and to lock that into focus. You can check out more of his [3D images on his website](#). And you can see the zoom presentation in its entirety [here](#) - note that the presentation starts after CCCC club business at about 28 minutes into the video.

More amazing images can be found on [Don's website](#) at DonKom.ca

Mentor Meeting - Macro Photography



CCCC member Carol DeGuseppi took us through the basics of macro photography. She covered basic techniques and equipment, shared great examples, and answered questions from Mentees about this popular and exciting style of photography.



Mentor meeting host Buzz Mossholder led a half-hour critique session of Mentees' images. Mentors provided feedback and in some cases Buzz demonstrated live editing suggestions. No suggestions for improvement were needed for this stunning image by Diane Busz!



[Click here for a downloadable PDF](#) of Carol's Powerpoint presentation . [Click here to watch the Zoom video](#) of the Macro Photography presentation and member critique session.

Competition - "Stars at Night"

A challenging assigned topic resulted in fewer than usual entries for "Stars at Night". However, CCCC members more than made up for it with a large number of excellent entries in the open categories. Competition judge Buddy Eleazer did an excellent job providing insight and instruction for each image.



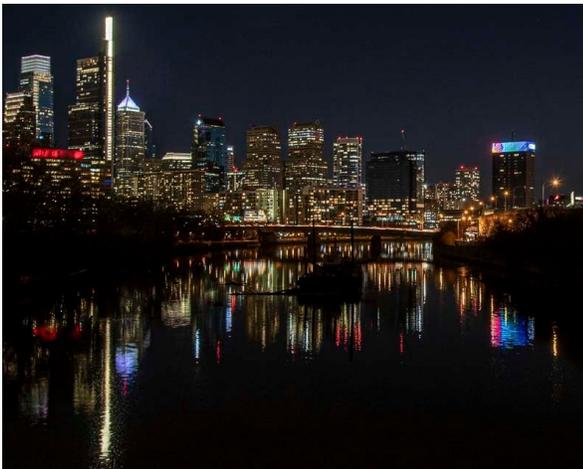
Navjot Hanspal took first place in Open Color category for his beautiful image, *Lonely Wolf*.



Congratulations to Svenne Juul for his monochrome image, *Bartsville Farm under the Stars*, and to Eric Loken for his color image, *Joshua Tree Star Trails*. Both captured stunning images of star trails and earned a first place award in the Assigned category of Stars in the Sky. A first place ribbon in the Open Monochrome category went to Arvid Bloom for his image, *Spiraling Staircase*. All competition winners can be [seen here](#).

Club Outings: Boathouse Row and Art Museum Grounds

Outings Coordinator Svenne Juul yet again had to make a last-minute change in plans and move this outing up a day to beat the snowstorm. A beautiful, clear day provided perfect photo opportunities to get those fantastic images of Boathouse Row and the dramatic Philly skyline, like this one by Svenne. View other images in the [gallery](#).



Upcoming Events:

Members' Forum - February 3

Infrared photography with Buzz Mossholder

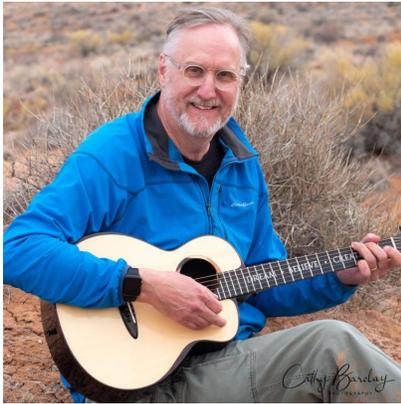
During this forum, Buzz will discuss the equipment, subject selection, composition, and post processing of infrared images. Join us to discover ways to view the world differently and expand your creativity to produce photographs that can be different and thought provoking.



Monthly Critique Group - February 7

Share photographs and receive constructive feedback from fellow photographers. This is a gentle and fun atmosphere that promotes friendship and learning for members only.

Monthly Meeting - February 10



Master Your Craft and Honor Your Vision with guest speaker, John Barclay

We are thrilled to welcome back John Barclay for one of his inspirational talks. This month he will speak to us about our vision and how it should be what drives our photography. If you want to be inspired and motivated, don't miss this! You can see some of John's photos at www.johnbarclayphotography.com.

Mentor Meeting - February 17

Lighting and Off-Camera Flash with Jim Wilson



Lighting and flash can be intimidating, but our 2020 Photographer of the Year will moderate a session and help make sense of it all! Jim will discuss how to set up some basic lighting at home, and how to control light to get the photographic effect you desire. There will also be time for general questions and discussion on other topics.



February Outings:

Valley Forge - February 14



If you like wandering among the footsteps of historical figures and wondering what it was like to be a part of the winter encampment of the Continental Army under George Washington, this is the outing for you! Hopefully there will be some snow on the ground so we can experience the full effect! Check out a [gallery of images](#) from a prior outing to Valley Forge.

Stroud Preserve - February 27

Historic buildings, hiking trails, wide open grasslands and the Brandywine Creek - Stroud Preserve has something for everyone! Join us on this late afternoon outing and catch the golden hour, sunset, and the moonrise.

The image on the right by Carol DeGuisseppi was captured in February a few years ago, so this is representative of what you may see.



More Upcoming Outings

Here are two of the upcoming photo meet-ups and club outings planned for the next few months. Keep an eye out for more information in emails and on the schedule page as it becomes available.

- On and below the Ben Franklin Bridge
- Marsh Creek at Daybreak

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 [CCCC Home page](#) and the [Schedule page](#) regularly for updates.

- Wed, Feb 3 [Members' Forum](#)
- Sun, Feb 7 [Monthly Critique Group](#)
- Wed, Feb 10 [Monthly Meeting](#)
- Sun, Feb 14 [Club Outing - Valley Forge](#)
- Wed, Feb 17 [Mentor Meeting](#)
- Wed, Feb 24 [Monthly Competition](#)
- Sat, Feb 27 [Club Outing - Stroud Preserve](#)
- Wed, Mar 3 [Members' Forum](#)
- Sun, Mar 7 [Monthly Critique Group](#)
- Wed, Mar 10 [Monthly Meeting](#)
- Wed, Mar 17 [Mentor Meeting](#)
- Wed, Mar 24 [Monthly Competition](#)

Welcome to our Newest Members!

We are happy to welcome two new members since our last newsletter came out; we look forward to getting to know you and joining us on your photographic journey.

Chuck Cruit and Therese Choquette - We're Happy to see that Chuck jumped right in participating in zoom meetings. He joined the Mentor/Mentee group and connected with a Mentor for advice on purchasing a new camera - which he ordered that night! We hope Therese also adapts quickly and takes advantage of our many club offerings. Welcome Chuck and Therese!



This month our volunteer spotlight shines on our spectacular Outings Coordinator, Svenne Juul

**Volunteer
Spotlight**

Svenne joined CCCC in 2018 and quickly became involved, first helping with technical aspects of our competitions and currently as our Outings Coordinator. He has certainly risen to the occasion, meeting all the challenges of closures and

rescheduling during the past year, and has done an amazing job finding safe and fun photo outings for us. Thanks, Svenne!

He has been snapping photos since his teenage years, but just started taking it seriously when he joined the club. His favorite genre of photography is people in motion.

When asked how he has grown or been inspired by our members, he said he was in 'shock and awe' seeing the skill level and creativity in the competitions and presentations. As he got to know more of the members, he really appreciated how generously everyone shared their unique skills and perspectives. He soon realized that photography is a much bigger field than he realized and made him look for his own personal perspective.

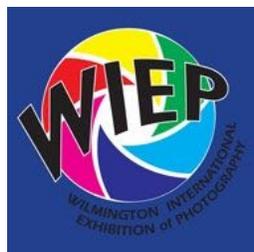
Svenne and his wife started a software and consulting business in 2004, which they grew and then sold in 2016. He worked for the company who acquired the business for a few years, retiring in 2019. He enjoys volunteering and is considering opportunities in his community.

Staying alive and healthy for a long time is front and center for Svenne and his wife and many of his hobbies are focused on an active lifestyle. They were both inspired after reading the book 'Lifespan: Why We Age—and Why We Don't Have To' by David Sinclair in the spring of 2020. As a result he now spends a lot of time walking, running, kayaking, yoga, cold showers, breathing exercises, intermittent fasting, consuming supplements, getting good sleep and convincing others that they really should join them so they can continue to surround themselves with fun and interesting people even after they turn centenarians.

When asked if there was anything else he wanted to share, here is his response:

“According to Seneca, a Roman philosopher, **'Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity'**. I couldn't agree more and am working hard to get even luckier.”

Opportunities to Show Your Work



Last Chance! The deadline to submit images for the 88th Annual Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography is Monday, February 15. Don't miss this opportunity to have your work displayed locally with photographers from around the world!

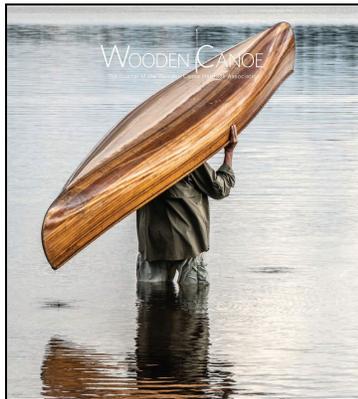
<http://www.wilmingtoninternational.org/>

The Pennsylvania Center for Photography is accepting submissions for their Odyssey Exhibit through March 8, 2021. This very popular annual exhibit will be all virtual this year. There is no specific theme - submit anything taken anywhere in the world! Get all the details on their website.

<http://www.pacenterforphotography.org/>



Members in the News



Jim and Betsy Wilson are featured in the current issue of Wooden Canoe magazine. "The Art of the Canoe - Canoe Imagery of Jim and Betsy Wilson" includes the cover and an eight-page spread inside the magazine. This cover shot is of Jim carrying the woodstrip canoe he made for their daughter Alex. The full article and featured images can be [seen here](#).

Learning Opportunities

We all like getting stuff for free with no strings attached! [The School of Photography](#) has a variety of **FREE** tutorials on their site aimed to give you ideas, tips, and techniques for improving your photography. Abstracts, minimalism, portraits, landscapes are just a few of the topics you can dig into and learn about. And, best of all -- **FREE!!**



Competition Tips and Techniques

Surrealism. Webster's Dictionary defines surrealism as "the principles, ideals, or practice of producing fantastic or incongruous imagery or effects in art, literature, film, or theater by means of unnatural or irrational juxtapositions and combinations."

That sounds like free reign to be extra creative - just remember our competition rules - all parts of the image must be your own (textures are permitted). Have fun with this one!

Need more inspiration? Click [here](#) for valuable tips and techniques.

Website Wisdom:

Member websites - Want to see more images by your fellow CCCC friends? Many have websites - to check them out go to Club Information / Member Websites, or [just click here](#) and enjoy!

Your Image History - Don't remember what you entered into a previous competition? Maybe you won a ribbon but can't remember when? Check out your Image History by clicking on [My Account](#) / My Image History. Be sure you are logged in first!

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...

Connie Snyder, with yet another clever double exposure!



As Mork from Ork would say..... *Shazbot!*