



# THE IMAGE

September 2019  
Fall Issue

## View From the Boardroom

*By Susan Frechette*

This fall marks the beginning of my sixth year as a member of the Coastal Camera Club. I joined in September of 2014. Back then I knew very little about my camera or photography in general. I learned so much my first year in the club; but every year in the club has been a huge learning experience for me. The speakers, critiques, workshops, competitions and shows have all helped me to improve my photography.

This summer I had an opportunity to learn even more by attending the NECCC. The New England Camera Club Council conference is held every July at the UMass Amherst campus. This was my first year attending. My husband Mike and I arrived around noon on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, the first day of the conference. I had been to professional conferences when I worked and this conference followed a similar format. From early morning until around 5pm, I had my choice of dozens of scheduled programs on various topics presented by professional photographers. Other activities such as product demonstrations and photo shoot sessions were also being held in several locations on the campus. Numerous vendors lined a downstairs corridor, all touting deals on just about anything that had to do with photography. For two and a half days I learned about photographing flowers, using a macro lens, how to get great landscape and waterfall shots, and how to get pictures of the birds in your own backyard. I browsed vendor tables, tried out demo lenses and talked to members of camera clubs from all over New England. I even bumped into a few friends I knew from photography workshops that I'd attended in the past. The weekend went by all too fast and suddenly it was Sunday afternoon and time to leave. On the drive home Mike and I reflected on our experiences. This was Mike's fourth time attending the conference and he had done some things that I had passed up. Now I realized that although I had kept busy all weekend, with some better planning, I could have done so much more. I may not go to the NECCC every year, but I definitely want to go again. Next time I will be better prepared to take advantage of all that it has to offer.

If you've never attended an NECCC conference, you should consider doing so. You will be exposed to new ideas and techniques that will help you hone your photography skills no matter what skill level you are. On pages eight and nine of this newsletter, we've included first hand experiences from some of our club members who attended the conference with me this year. Think about going next year. It will only take a few days out of your busy schedule and I know you won't regret it.

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*“In photography and in life,  
always look for the light. If  
you don’t see it— bring it.”*  
... John Waire

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## 2019—2020 PRELIMINARY MEETING SCHEDULE

September 18 —Meet and Greet; Show members summer project photos

October 2 —Robert Calafiore Presentation on Contemporary Photographers

October 16 —Opening for Senior Center Fall Exhibit

November 6—Mark Seth Lender Presentation on Nature Photography

November 20 —Critique Meeting

December 4—Pot Luck Christmas Party

January 15, 2020—Print Critique Meeting

February 5, 2020—Peter Chow Presentation on the Zone System

February 19, 2020—Critique Meeting

March 4, 2020—Mini Workshop Night

March 18, 2020—40 Slide Review

April 1, 2020—Joint Competition with SECCC

April 15, 2020—Presentation by Hank Paper on Street Photography

May 6, 2020—Gladeview Show Opening Reception

May 20, 2020—Club Annual Project review

June 3, 2020 - Annual Business Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner

## 2019—2020 EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

October 7, 2019—Senior Center Fall Show hang 5-7 pm

November 22, 2019—Senior Center Show take down 8:30am -4pm or  
Saturday November 23 8:30-12pm or Monday, November 25 by noon

January 11, 2020—Connecticut Hospice Drop off 12:00—2:00pm

February 29, 2020—Connecticut Hospice take down; all day

March 2, 2020—Senior Center Spring Members Show hang 5-7pm

April 13, 2020—Senior Center Show take down 8:30am—4pm or 5-9pm

May 2, 2020—Gladeview Show drop off 12:00—2:00pm

June 27, 2020—Gladeview Show take down; all day

## MEETUPS

Our goal is to continue to schedule photo shoot opportunities as much as possible. We did Elizabeth Park in Hartford and the East River Preserve in Guilford over the summer. We have several places that we plan to schedule this fall and they are listed below. Other ideas are listed also but we welcome any suggestions from the membership. Contact Sue Frechette at wfrprs@att.net or any board member if you have an idea for a photo shoot.

Photo Safari—Saturday, October 19th 8:30am

Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center

Professional Boxer

Weir Farm National Historic Site in Wilton

Ray of Light Animal Rescue in East Haddam

Hammonasset State Park Night Shoot

Mystic Seaport

Indoor Antique Mall

## HELP WANTED

We still have openings on committees. Many of our board members are currently filling more than one role or could use help on the committee they chair. If you are interested in helping to steer club activities and are willing to take on a few tasks throughout the year, we would welcome your help. Please contact Maryann or any board member if you have an interest.

## GLADEVIEW SLIDE SHOWS

We continue to share our photos every month with the residents at Gladeview Health Center. These shows help the residents stay in touch with the outside world and often evoke memories. We've received very positive feedback from the facility. We will need volunteers to do slide shows through the upcoming months. Travel is always an enjoyable topic as well as local scenes and events, but other topics are also welcome. The presentation should take about thirty minutes or less. Our experience is that 50–60 images will usually fit into that timeframe. You can use the club projector as well as the club laptop if you need it. The facility is flexible on scheduling a Tuesday that will work for you. Please consider volunteering. It's fun, the audience is enthusiastic, and it's a nice way to show some of your great images. If you would like to do a slide show but need help with creating or presenting it, let Maryann know and one of us will be happy to give you a hand. We will also accompany you during your presentation, if you'd like a little extra support.

## ANNUAL CCC PROJECT

The theme for our 2019-2020 Annual CCC Project will be "Monochrome". This can include photos in black & white, sepia, or any use of one color. Most processing/post-processing software such as Adobe Lightroom includes simple one click conversions. In the case of Lightroom there is a suite of different B&W styles to choose from. Sometimes you can improve an image further by tweaking the settings after you use one of the templates. Here is a tutorial that you can look at for some tips.

<https://digital-photography-school.com/using-color-temperature-in-black-and-white-conversions/>

## FLICKR

We have noticed that the images loaded to our Flickr site has been diminishing. In order to make it easier for members to contribute, we've decided to no longer request images that fit a theme. Instead we'd like members to load their images to our Flickr site whenever they have an image they would like to share with the club. If you are not familiar with our Flickr site, here is the link. We look forward to seeing your images.

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/coastalcameraclub/>

## FALL EVENTS

**CCC Photo Safari: Saturday, October 19 8:30am.** Details to follow in an email.

**New Britain Museum of American Art: Expanded Field: Photography from the Collection of the NBMAA: August 2 – September 29.** For more info go to <http://www.nbmaa.org/exhibition/expanded-field-photography-from-the-collection-of-the-nbmaa>

**Bauer Farm Photo Contest:** Entry form available for download on our website [www.coastalcameraclub.org](http://www.coastalcameraclub.org)

**Group Gallery Show at Spectrum Art Gallery in Centerbrook: September 27 to November 10.** Go to [www.spectrumartgallery.org](http://www.spectrumartgallery.org) for more information.

**Outdoor Autumn Arts Festival on Madison Town Green: October 12 and 13.** Go to <http://www.spectrumartgallery.org/madison-autumn-arts-festival/> for more information.

**CVCC Photography Exhibit at the Zahn Community Gallery in Westbrook: September 5 to October 17.** The Zahn gallery is located in the Middlesex health facility off I95 exit 65 in Westbrook near the Tanger Outlets.

## USING FLASH

*By Mike Frechette*

I used to think that the use of a flash device was an indication of poor photographic skills. One used a flash when one couldn't figure out the right aperture, ISO or F-stop. I thought that if I knew how to control those three variables, then I would always get good pictures. Of course, I was wrong on that.

There are good reasons for using a flash. The problem that many of us have is that we usually stick the flash on top of the camera. After all, is that not where the camera manufacturer put it? So we aim our camera at our subject, take the picture and when we look at the image, ugh; the flash has blown out the depth of the picture. We have a "flat" result. Or worse, you have an ugly shadow from the flash sitting on top of the camera (especially when using a wide angle lens).



See the shadow? It was caused by using a wide angle lens and an on-camera flash.

Using a flash or multiple flash devices enables a photographer to control light. He or she can get a very diffuse light for a softer look, or a very focused light for deep shadows and a harder look. Flash can be used to give depth to the picture, and can be used to modify a subject in bright sunlight. In short, flash is a tool that we, as photographers, should have in our skill set and we should not be afraid to use it when we think it will create a better image.

The flash unit provided as part of your camera is generally considered not very good. If you are a serious photographer, you should invest in a good add-on flash unit. Along with the flash unit, you should also have a light diffuser that you can slip over the flash so that you can control the light better.

If you don't mind investing more money, then get an off camera flash unit. Off camera flash units consist of a transmitter and a receiver. The transmitter fits on your camera, that the receiver is used with the flash unit. When you take a picture, the trigger (transmitter) will signal the flash unit to fire remotely. Why would you want to spend money on this? Because light shining on the subject at an angle to the camera lens axis will create a more interesting picture with better details, shadows and textures.

Flash can also be used to control the background by making it darker than the subject. Normally, you would expose for the area that has the most light; so if you were shooting a flower against a bright sky, the tendency would be to take a picture that is too dark in the foreground (this applies to portraits also). Try this experiment. Take a picture of a close subject with a bright background on a sunny day. The odds are the subject will be too dark. If you open the lens, then the background will be blown out and you may lose details that you intended to keep. So instead of opening the lens wider, close the lens down and use a flash to lighten the subject.

In these two images, the one on the left was taken without the flash. You can see that the grain of the wood is almost lost in darkness. If we attempt to “fix” the image changing the F-stop, then our depth of field becomes too narrow. If we adjust the ISO upwards, then the picture can become too “grainy”. By using an off-camera flash, the image on the right now highlights the wood, still shows the flowers and turns the background (an ugly screen) dark so that it is no longer noticeable.



No flash used.



Off Camera flash used.

In my next article I'll explore the use of multiple off camera flash units and better light control.

## REQUESTS

**Products:** If you have made a photography related purchase in the past year or two, please consider submitting a brief review of the product. This includes gear and software. Some things you might want to include: why did you purchase this product, does it replace something you already own, is it user friendly? Send the review to Sue Frechette at [wfrprs@att.net](mailto:wfrprs@att.net) and she'll publish it in the newsletter.

**Photo Workshops and Tours:** Have you recently participated in a photography workshop or tour? Please consider writing a brief review of your experience. Please comment on the leader/instructor, the location, the photo opportunities, the learning experience in general would you recommend it to others, and anything else you'd like our members to know. Send it to Sue Frechette at [wfrprs@att.net](mailto:wfrprs@att.net). She'll publish it in the newsletter.

## FOR SALE

**Epson Printer: includes photography paper.** If interested call member Paula Chabot at **860-399-5414**

**Nikon Camera: Model 3100; includes charger and two batteries.** If interested call former member Cathy Purcell at **860-391-2324**

## OCTOBER 2ND — ROBERT CALAFIORE: SOME THOUGHTS - A SELECTION OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHERS

Our first guest speaker this season will be Robert Calafiore. His talk will focus on contemporary photography from the 1970's to the present. It will illustrate that great artists are creative critical thinkers and that the best work starts with or develops from exceptional concepts. Some of the artists included will be John Brinton Hogan, Megan Riepenhoff, Markus Brunetti among many others. Some of Mr. Calafiore's own work will also be shown.

Mr. Calafiore is a Connecticut native: he was born in New Britain and currently lives and works in West Hartford. He has a BFA degree in Photography from Hartford Art School and an MFA in Photography from State University of New York at Buffalo. After earning his degrees, Calafiore has focused on his artistic practice while administering, teaching and promoting the fine arts from a university staff and faculty position. His work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally. He has been awarded a Connecticut Artist Fellowship Grant for 2018, has been named the Second Sight Award artist speaker for the Medium Festival of Photography in October 2018, and was featured in a solo booth at PhotoFairs San Francisco by Gallery 1/1 from Seattle. He is currently represented by ClampArt, New York City and Foto Relevance Gallery, Houston, TX. Reviews and articles about his work have recently been featured in Photography Magazine, Diffusion Annual IX, Lenscratch, The Hand Magazine, and Collector Daily, as well as many other publications.



## NOVEMBER 6TH — MARK SETH LENDER: WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Mark Seth Lender will be our second guest speaker this fall. The program will focus on his fieldwork with wildlife and using his photography to augment his writing.

He is a producer for wildlife content and the Explorer in Residence at *Living on Earth* which is nationally broadcast on Public Radio. His fieldwork with wildlife, which spans a quarter of a century and seven continents, serves as the basis for his monthly broadcast essays. He has been with *Living on Earth* for eleven years and is well-known to that audience for his dramatic reading style, distinctive prose, and for his photography which appears on the program's website. He also lectures widely and has been a featured speaker at many schools, libraries, garden and photography clubs, universities (including among others Yale and Brandeis) and at the Explorers Club. He just completed a new collection of his wildlife writing, *Cardinal Points, True Short Stories of the Natural World*, with an anticipated publication date of Fall 2020.

Mark and his wife Valerie live in Clinton and have recently together written and illustrated a children's book titled "Smeagull the Seagull" which tells the true story of a seagull that comes to their house every day and knocks on their door. The book is selling on Amazon and in many local bookstores.



## MEMBER EXPERIENCES: NEW ENGLAND CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL CONFERENCE JULY 2019

The NECCC was held this year the weekend of July 12 through the 14th. As always, it was chock full of photography seminars, vendor demos and photo shoot sessions. Several CCC members attended and we all agreed that this year the conference seemed even better than previous years. Here are some comments that our members have provided about their experience.

### **From Mark Janke**

“This was my sixth NECCC conference, so obviously I enjoy them. About 85% of the presentations are really good. You learn some new techniques and you get to see a lot of photography that at least borders on fine art. The weekend always pushes me to try new things that are out of my comfort zone. It also pushes one to take images that please us, rather than working just to get prize winners. My photography time had degenerated into strictly taking out my camera when we went on trips, instead of having my camera with me to catch anything that tickles my fancy on a daily basis. Well, since I got home from the conference, I’ve gone shooting for a least a few minutes each day for almost a week....unheard of, for me. So obviously, the NECCC conference has gotten me juiced again about photography.”

### **From Allison Maltese**

“The NECCC 2019 photography conference was quite an experience. It was my second time going to the conference (the last was in 2011), and I thought it was a very worthy event. I would highly recommend it to other club members, but be prepared for a lot of walking in hot summer weather. The campus is large and I logged 17 miles on my fitbit for the weekend. They did offer a shuttle bus if you wanted it, but it didn’t seem to be around much. I am guessing there were around 1000 attendees.

I took in 12 of 13 possible presentations. They were excellent, except for just a couple, and they covered everything from Flower Photography to Photographing Moving Water to Composition to Wildlife and Nature. I had opted to buy a printed copy of the speaker notes, which turned out to be a great idea as it freed me up from trying to take notes in the dark and allowed me to be fully present during the lecture. And I went home with a thick binder of meaty information.

I did not take advantage of the photo shoots of models, cars or insects, instead opting to hear the speakers who were very accomplished photographers from all over the country. I didn’t even bring my camera the first day because I was too busy to use it. I did have some time to make some photos on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. There was a slew of raffle prizes and Mark and I each won a small prize; a book and a lanyard.

Dianne, Maryann and I each entered the print competition, and I was totally surprised to receive a Judge’s Choice Award and a plaque for my ‘Water Wiggle’ entry. Despite information on how to achieve the perfect slow water landscape and other similar typical “professional” photography work, many of the speakers encouraged us to break the rules and be true to our personal styles. That message, conveyed by speaker Chris Murray, really resonated with me.

I came home exhausted, but very inspired and happy to have attended this conference. I am not sure going every year is in the cards for me, but for some others this is a fun and much anticipated annual event. Next year is the 75th annual conference, so I’m sure there will be some special events planned.”

### **From Maryann Flick**

“Six CCC members attended the New England Camera Club Council conference this year; an increase from the last few years. This year was my sixth time! I would encourage all members to attend this yearly conference at least once. It has so much to offer at all levels that it is well worth the fee.



**Categories of the presentations:** Creativity, Nature, Digital (i.e., processing, editing via computer), General Interest (street, night, travel, video black & white), Portrait, Smart-phone. Here's the bad and the good, IMHO. 1) The mid July weekend is usually the hottest time of year in MA. The classrooms at UMass used for conference seminars are scattered around so going from one presentation to another requires tromping around or waiting for the shuttle bus, usually in brutal heat. The good news is that the buildings are all air conditioned. 2) Construction! As with most other university campuses, UMass takes advantage of the summer to do construction. This year was particularly annoying since there seemed to be more construction going on than in previous years and the construction was located close to several buildings where seminars were taking place. 3) Speakers, topics and activities were extensive and diverse. This is both good and bad; there is so much to choose from that you need to carefully plan what to attend and know that you may not be able to take in as many presentations or other activities as you might want. The conference does provide speaker notes for all the presentations and most talks were repeated in a different time slot. 4) This year instead of a grand photo op on Sunday morning, there were several photo walks led by speakers on their particular areas of expertise. Advance signup was required. 5) I thought all speakers this year were very good and provided good to outstanding content. 6) Decent food with the meal plan; better than when I went to school; lots of options at each meal. 7) Opportunities to try out lenses and cameras. 8) Most speakers were available to follow up questioning during the conference. Some do workshops all over the world. Here you can meet and talk with them to see if you might like to attend one of their tours or workshops. 9) Loads of outstanding and inspiring images to view both from the speakers and in the print competition. 10) Plenty of photo opportunities; costumed people, models, raptors, and more. **Take away lessons:** Photograph to satisfy yourself, not the judges, critics or viewers. Even the best digital image out of the camera can be improved with some editing. Making good images should be a deliberate process, not random snaps. Use the in-camera histogram to judge correct exposures. Experiment and have fun.

### From Mike Frechette

I have attended the NECCC for the past four years. I thought that this year was as good as, if not better than, each of the previous years. There is something for everyone at this conference; lectures, photo ops, food, models and plenty of vendors. Here are my impressions of some of the lectures that I attended.

**Creating Painterly and Vintage Images in Topaz** - I attended this one because I was interested in seeing if Topaz was worth the cost. The basic program is free; Topaz makes money by charging for all the add-ons. One popular add-on is called 'Impressions', which is a set of filters that will make your photograph look like a painting. I own a photo editor called "SPE" or Simple Photo Editor which has an extensive number of filters and effects that allow me to create a photograph that looks like a painting, so I was not that impressed with what was shown about the Topaz add-on. Still, the lecture intrigued me enough to go ahead and download Topaz Studio, which hosts a plethora of add-ons that Topaz has created. I've been 'playing' with it for the past several days.

**Multimedia for Storytelling: Hybrid Imaging** - This lecture opened my eyes to tremendous new possibilities. Sue and I have been doing slideshows for Gladeview and I'm always looking for something better than the Lightroom slideshow feature. This presentation demonstrated how to mix photographs and videos together in one slideshow. The presenter also demonstrated an iPhone app that can recognize a photograph and launch a video keyed to the photograph. Few presentations make me want to try something immediately, but this one did.

David Akoubian did a session about nature photography. Having participated in one of David's Grand Tetons workshops, I was already familiar with his style of shooting. He had a lot of advice to offer on how to get good nature shots. He recommended a visit to the zoo or to a bird rehab facility as a good place to get pictures of the animals under controlled conditions, which allows you to be more prepared than if you were in the wild. He also stressed the importance of learning to maintain a proper distance from the animals, both to protect the animal and the photographer.

## PETER CHOW: PHOTO ACCEPTED TO EXHIBITION AT BLANK WALL GALLERY

CCC member Peter Chow has had one of his photographs accepted to the Abandoned Buildings Exhibition held by the Blank Wall Gallery in Athens, Greece. The exhibit selected 128 images submitted by photographers from 24 countries. The show is scheduled for November. Here's Peter's photo which is titled "House of Poems." It was taken in October of 2018 in the village of Volax on the Greek island of Tinos.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Another summer has gone by! Welcome to the 2019-2020 CCC year. Once again we have tried to fill the upcoming meetings educational lectures by members and outside speakers, workshops, critique nights, competition, exhibits and other opportunities to show us your work as well as time to mingle and compare your experiences. There will also be a few activities outside of regular meetings. The beginning of the new year is a good time to think about the reasons you joined CCC. Go forward with those goals and plan to participate where the club best helps you achieve your goals. Also think about branching out to club activities that you haven't tried. In different ways, every part of our schedule is meant to address the club's mission to promote the art and science of photography. I hope you will enjoy the year ahead.

Maryann



Contributed by Paula Chabot