



THE IMAGE

April 2017
Spring Issue

View From the Boardroom

By Susan Frechette

I think anyone who doesn't have a hobby is missing out on a lot. A good hobby provides endless opportunities to be creative and to experience new things. Photography certainly falls into this category. I joined CCC about three years ago and when I joined, I knew very little about my camera and even less about photography itself. My main motivation for joining was to learn how to get better snapshots for my scrapbooks. I had a digital camera but I shot everything in auto mode. To be honest, I usually got pretty good results. But there were times when I wanted something different.

Thanks to all the CCC meetings and activities, I know a lot more about my camera now, but the camera is just a tool, a gadget really, and I've never been much of a 'gadget' person. The enjoyment I gain from photography is finding opportunities to get beautiful and unusual shots. Photography gives me an excuse to get outside and go someplace I've never been before. Exploring new places provides photographic opportunities. Being there at the right time helps too. And if you possess the virtue of patience, then you will soon build a portfolio of wonderful images.

Sometime over the next few months, block off some time to go exploring. There are so many beautiful towns and parks that are only a short drive from where you live. If you can't find a new place close to home, try a spot that you've been to a hundred times before. But be there an hour before sunrise. You may be surprised at what you see and what your camera captures. And if you've done that already, try it again. The lighting will be different or you will surely see something that you've never seen before.

I've often thought that the best thing that ever happened to me was moving to Connecticut. It is a uniquely beautiful state that is small enough to offer totally different landscapes and environments within a sixty mile radius. As the weather warms, make it a point to find new places or revisit an old favorite. And don't forget your camera.

"When was the last time you did something for the first time?"

- John C. Maxwell

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HELP WANTED

The club is looking to fill several vacant positions on the board. If you are interested in helping to steer club activities and willing to take on a few tasks throughout the year, we would welcome your help. We have an immediate need for someone to chair the Activities Committee which promotes and organizes activity meetups. We also need help with scheduling programs and speakers for meetings. We also need someone who will keep our Facebook page updated with photos and information on recent club activities. Please contact Maryann or any other board member if you can give us a hand.

“The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera.” Dorothea Lange

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Activities—Open

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SPRING MEETING SCHEDULE

March 15, 2017—40 Slide Review

April 5, 2017—CCC/SECC Joint Competition at SECC

April 19, 2017—Matting, mounting and Framing; led by Archie, Maryann and Allison

May 3, 2017—Gladeview Health Care Center Opening Reception; Open to the public

May 17, 2017—Annual Club Project slide show

June 7, 2017—Annual Pot Luck Dinner; Member's Show and Tell

SPRING EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

March 6, 2017—Senior Center Hanging

April 16, 2017—Senior Center Take Down

April 29, 2017—Gladeview Health Care Center

May 3, 2017—Gladeview Health Care Center Opening Reception; Open to the public

June 24, 2017—Gladeview Take Down



UPCOMING JOINT CCC/SECCC COMPETITION

Every year CCC participates in a joint competition with the Southeastern Connecticut Camera Club. This year the competition will be held on April 6th at the SECCC meeting location at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Station, 429 Old Colchester Road (RT 354) in Salem.

Members can submit up to ten (10) digital images. Any image not entered in a previous joint competition is eligible for entry. Submission deadline has not yet been announced.

Up to three images may be submitted to each of the following categories:

- DIGITAL PICTORIAL--Any subject
- DIGITAL NATURE--no hand of man
- DIGITAL BLACK AND WHITE

One image may also be submitted to the special category which is SHADOWS.

Digital images need to be sent to SECCC. We currently do not have the details on where to send the images or what the file naming convention is. We will send that out as soon as we receive it.

The competition starts at 7:15 so you are encouraged to be there any time after 6:30 to check in please.

ANNUAL CCC PROJECT

If you haven't started the club annual project yet, there's still time. The slide show is scheduled for the May 17th meeting. This year the theme is shapes. Each of your images should focus on one of the designated shapes in the list below. The shape can be something in nature, a household object, an architectural structure. Be creative and look for something unusual. Here's the list.

- Circle
- Sphere
- Square
- Cube
- Rectangle
- Cylinder
- Triangle
- Cone
- Oval
- Egg
- Diamond
- Heart
- Polygon (any multisided shape)
- Freeform (shapeless; 2D)
- Blob (shapeless; 3D)

CCC FLICKR PAGE

Did you know that the club has a FLICKR page for members to post their images? The current theme is 'Signs of Spring'. As the weather improves, get outside on one of these warm days and take some shots of birds, melting snow, spring flowers popping up; whatever you see that says that spring is finally here and take a few minutes to post them on our flickr page. The web page address is <https://www.flickr.com/groups/coastalcameraclub>. You will need to join the group in order to post your images.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"A Day With David Middleton", Sunday March 12th, 9am to 3pm at the Salem Gardner Lake Firehouse; go to http://photoconnectionoc.com/david_middleton_2017/ for more information

New England Camera Club Conference (NECCC) July 14, 15th and 16th held at UMASS Amherst; go to <http://www.neccc.org/> for more information

Tyler Stableford, Canon Explorer of Light; April 22, 9am to 4pm, Trinity on Main in New Britain; go to www.shutter-buds.com for more information

The Photography Show presented by the Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD); March 30th to April 2nd at Pier 94, NYC; for more information go to <http://www.aipad.com/?page=photographyshow>

IMAGES 2017 presented by Shoreline Arts Alliance in Guilford, CT. Exhibition from March 18th to April 8th; go to <http://www.shorelinearts.org/images.cfm> for more information

SOME THOUGHTS ON STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

By Mike Frechette

I have noticed that members of the Coastal Camera Club seem to shy away from doing what it known as "Street Photography". In its simplest terms, Street Photography is capturing humanity in a moment of time in which we see something universal. The pictures are not posed; the moments are authentic. Some photographers like to say that a good street photograph tells a story; other photographers may call it a "decisive moment". Whatever you choose to call it, many of us are hesitant to take such pictures.

In the most primitive way, as a photographer we are invading someone's private space when we take a candid photograph. This bothers many of us, because we would not want our personal space invaded. Street photography is somewhat voyeuristic, yet documenting people and how they interact with each other and with the environment it not a bad thing. The pictures are not posed, nor did we, as photographers, necessarily ask for permission in advance. We simply saw the moment, and with our cameras, captured it.

As an example, the picture on the right was taken in Central Park. It is a simple picture of one man taking another man's picture with his camera, but it does tell a story. Are they two brothers? Friends? Do the red and green hats have any significance? It is obvious that the picture was not staged, but is a true candid picture.



I offer the following hints for doing street photography.

Use a prime lens if you have one, 35mm or 50mm work well as they are small and can capture a good depth of field. The smaller lens will also help make you less conspicuous as you take your pictures. Shoot your pictures using aperture priority. Set your aperture at F8, and ISO at 400. Shoot a few test shots in your environment to make sure that everything is working well, then start looking around. Some photographers recommend learning how to "shoot from the hip" meaning learn how to take pictures without looking in the view finder. Others recommend acting like a tourist, and take a picture of a landmark, then without taking your camera from your face, look around for other possible pictures. People will notice you less if the camera does not immediately drop after you take the picture.

There are two methods of capturing the scenes- you can set down in front of a busy location (a bar, a skating rink, an intersection, or a common tourist attraction) and wait for the moments to occur. You can also wander the streets, camera at ready, and take pictures as you see them. Both methods will yield good results if you keep at it. When I undertake such endeavors, I usually set aside an afternoon to go out and take such pictures.



People on the streets have "no expectation of privacy". That said, if you want to take a particular picture of someone, it does not hurt to ask for permission. Most times they will give it, but not always. I find it somewhat humorous that FLICKR has a group with pictures of people "giving the finger" to photographers, mostly because they did not want their pictures taken. Sometimes you take a picture and there is no way you want to ask the people for permission. The photograph on the left is one of my favorite street photographs because the facial expressions of the seated man and woman tell the whole story.

Take your camera everywhere you go. I now try to put my camera in the car no matter where I am going, because opportunities are always there. And do not be afraid to take lots of pictures. Most of the time you will end up with what we call documentary pictures- pictures that capture what was going on but do not tell the story. Every now and then, you will capture something that shows people in some wonderful moments.

AN INTERVIEW WITH CCC MEMBER DIANNE ROBERTS

By Susan Frechette

Dianne Roberts has been an active member of the Coastal Camera Club since 2009. She has won a number of awards for her wildlife and nature photos and has exhibited her images at the Scranton Library, Guilford Library, the Spectrum Gallery, the Connecticut Flower Show, the UCONN Stamford Photo Show and she currently has work on exhibit for the Annual Connecticut Artists Juried Exhibition at the Slater Museum in Norwich and also at the Spectrum Gallery in Centerbrook. I recently sat down with Diane for an informal discussion about her photography and to find out a little more about her other interests. Here are some excerpts from my interview.

Tell me a little about yourself. How long have you lived in Connecticut?

We moved from Manhattan to Norwalk and lived in Norwalk for eight years before moving to Madison where we've lived for the past thirty three years. We have two boys. My oldest son is thirty nine and the younger son is thirty seven and we have five grandchildren.

What was your profession?

I was hired right out of college by Pan Am as a flight attendant. At that time you needed a college degree and a language. I majored in Spanish. I was based out of Miami for nine months, and then worked out of NYC. That's where I met my husband. I worked for Pan Am for 23 1/2 years and then for Delta for another 17 years. I was lucky because I was able to travel all over the world. We had non-stops from NY to Tokyo, Bahrain and Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. I've been to Hong Kong, Morocco, Africa, South Africa, Tehran, Pakistan and many other places. I retired in 2008 but I guess traveling is in my blood. I went to the Galapagos Islands in 2013 and a year ago in October I went to Machu Picchu in Peru. My husband and I have traveled together a lot too. We went on an African safari one time. Another time we went with another couple, rented a car and drove through east Africa, Tanzania and Kenya. We were chased down the road by an elephant. The car broke down twice. We've had a lot of adventures. I haven't been to Australia or New Zealand. One thing I'd like to do is travel more in the US. I haven't seen the Grand Canyon, Arches National Park, I haven't been to any of those places.

What things do you like to do when you're not taking photos?

I do gardening. We have a water garden with goldfish and a 27" koi which is 27 years old; there used to be a lot more goldfish before the Great Egret came. I also have a huge 250 foot perennial border. I grow vegetables too. I used to start my seeds early and grow them under lights or use my neighbor's greenhouse, but now I buy seedlings from a nursery in North Guilford. We also have a field garden where we used to grow corn, until one year we caught fifteen raccoons. Now we grow okra and flowers in the field garden. In addition, my husband and I are involved with the Deacon John Grave House in Madison. I'm on the board and my husband is president. I'm in charge of the wallflower walk on the east side of the house. I'm also interested in art. I studied a lot of art history. I tell people that's why I do photography because I can't paint or draw.

How did you learn your photography skills?

When I was in college I took a photography course. They gave us a big Speed Graphic negative camera and we learned to develop in a dark room. When we moved to Norwalk, I took a refresher course and set up a dark room in the basement. I did all my own developing and printing in my dark room. But when the kids started getting older, I no longer had the time.

I started out doing a lot of macro photography. That's my real



love. I took a lot of water drop photos. I was out on my terrace one day and saw these nice water drops on a long stem of a Gloriosa Lilly, and I noticed the reflection of a terra cotta pot, which was upside down. The water drop works like a convex lens. It inverts the image and minimizes it. I had a water drop show at the Guilford Library and exhibited water drop photos at the Connecticut Flower Show. I won first place last year for the past two years at the UCONN Stamford Fine Art Photography show.

I started doing birds when I got my 200-500mm lens. What I like about it is that it's not variable. It's a fixed f5.6 so I can use a 1.4x teleconverter. The other thing I use all the time is my Cotton Carrier harness. When I was in the Galapagos Islands, I tripped and fell and broke my 18-200mm lens. Now I use the harness and I love it.

I've gained a lot of skill by going to seminars, the NECCC conferences, and camera club meetings. I'm also a member of the CT Valley Camera Club. I really like it when we have good speakers at the meetings, and knowing about seminars and participating in competitions is very valuable. I've also taken on line courses.

What is your process when developing your images?

I use Lightroom and Photoshop. I usually start in Lightroom, reducing the highlights and bringing up the shadows if the photo needs it. A lot of times I just go to the develop module and go right down the list of adjustments in order. If needed, I might adjust the exposure. I'll also up the clarity and luminance rather than changing the saturation because when you change the saturation it affects the whole image instead of just what needs to be changed. If I have other similar images I may sync those changes to all the images. If I'm going to print the image, I'll bring it into Photoshop and use the cropping tool and resizing function. I have an Epson R2880 printer I use at home. It's an older printer. They have a P600 out now that's supposed to be really good.

Do you have one photography tip that you can share?

I think the main thing is you need to take your time, be patient and work your subject. When I get into it and allow enough time, I try to really look at things. Don't be rushed. I also think one of the best things is to get involved with a club, showing your work and seeing other people's work. You really learn a lot.

TIDBITS #99—PRESENTATION

By Archie Stone

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines presentation as,

“...an activity in which someone shows, describes, or explains something to a group of people. ...the way in which something is arranged, designed, etc. ...the way in which something is presented.”

I am the Images Chair, fancy title for a jack of all trades, for the Shoreline Arts Alliances' annual state wide juried photography show. As such I have been hanging photography and other media for at least 14 years or more not only in Images but in other venues. In doing so, I have learned a little bit about presenting your work to others.

My most recent endeavor was assisting in hanging the SAA, Future Choices, high school multi media show. Because of this and other shows I decided to delve into presentation.

I think presentation, in addition to making the work of art stand out and hang well, is an indication of how the artist feels about and respects their work. I have seen beautiful works of art fail to get into shows because of poor presentation. In doing Images for these many years I have heard jurors comment about poor presentation as they reject work for the show. Here are some of the issues that I have observed.

Mats

- The wrong color mat for the image.
- The wrong size boarder for the image and frame.
- Dirty or marred mats.
- Prints that do not fit the mat opening showing white paper on two sides and covering the print on the other two sides.
- Mats too thin to support the image.
- Over cut corners or curved or ragged edges on the opening.

Mats should not compete with the image but accent and support the image. Color selection is important and should be studied. If in doubt, use white.

My rule of thumb for the mat is a minimum of 4 ply for a single or double mat. 4 ply is 1/8th inch in thickness. The larger the print, the wider the mat border.

Backing Boards

- The backing board is too thin, not supporting the image and print, allowing it to sag or bend.
- The backing board is not properly attached to the mat and/or print causing them to slip or come loose.
- Prints are not properly attached allowing the print to develop ridges and valleys.

The backing board is what gives the mat and print sturdiness so that it stays flat and smooth either in the frame or if hung, as in Future Choices and Images, without a frame. The mat should be fixed to the backing board either with double sided tape or with a good hinge mount. Numerous works are submitted to Images and Future Choices With the mat and backing board held together with doubled over masking tape or painters tape, a disaster waiting to happen.

My rule of thumb for backing board, over all dimension of the print and mat, 5x7 or 8x10 4 ply mat board, 11x14 up to 16x20 3/16th archival foam core, over 16x20, 1/4th to 3/8th inch depending on overall size.

Frames and Glass

- Too flimsy to hold the image.
- Color, shape and width of edge that competes for the viewers' attention.
- Scratches, dents and dings.
- Hanging system that does not hold the frame in place.
- Attaching system that does not hold the mat, print and backing board tight to the frame.
- Glass or plexi-glass that is scratched or chipped
- Dirt or other debris between the glass and mat or image.

Frames are the finishing touch that make your image stand out. The frame should complement the image and mat drawing the observer in to the print but not competing with the image for attention.

An excellent source of information that covers matting, mounting and framing from A to Z is the book, “Mat, Mount and Frame It Yourself” by M. David Logan. Yes, the same Logan that makes equipment for cutting and assembling mats, backing boards and frames.

Our second meeting in April will cover matting and mounting of prints.

COASTAL CAMERA CLUB

The Coastal Camera Club was started in 1990 for the purpose of fostering the science and art of photography and developing the photographic skills of the members. Members are from the greater shoreline area stretching from West Haven to Lyme as well as bordering inland towns such as Essex and Killingworth. We meet in the café at the Madison Senior Center at 7pm the first and third Wednesdays of every month from September through June.

Feel free to call any of the officers listed on page two of this newsletter for more information.

Visit our website at <http://www.coastalcameraclub.org>