



THE IMAGE

June 2023
Spring/Summer Issue

View From the Boardroom

By Susan Frechette

I'm sure all of you have crossed the Portland Bridge on occasion. That's the big arch bridge that crosses the Connecticut River from Middletown into Portland. You can see it going north on RT 9 in Middletown. It's actually the Arrigoni Bridge, named after Charles J. Arrigoni who was a legislator in the Connecticut House of representatives and then went on to the Connecticut Senate and promoted the bridge building project. Construction on the bridge started in 1936 and the bridge opened in 1938.

Well, I'm bringing this up because this bridge is about to become famous throughout the country because the USPS is issuing a set of four stamps with photographs of important bridges in the US and the Arrigoni will be featured on one of these stamps. My stamp collecting friends (and myself too) are excited about this and we are eagerly awaiting a release date and hopefully a first day ceremony.

The photograph was taken by a local second grade teacher named Joe Gowac from East Hampton Memorial School. It's a sunset and it was taken with a drone. Mr. Gowac is a drone and wildlife photographer who started his hobby six years ago. This photo was taken in 2019 and posted on his Instagram account where a contractor working for the postal service found the image and contacted Mr. Gowac about using it on a stamp. It took over two years before the photo was actually selected. If you're interested, you can read more about this stamp and Mr. Gowac in this article from the Middletown Press: <https://www.middletownpress.com/news/article/east-hampton-teacher-s-arrigoni-bridge-photo-17786386.php>

There have been other Connecticut photographers whose images have been selected for postage stamps. Sally Andersen-Bruce, a professional photographer from New Milford, has been commissioned several times to provide photos to the USPS.

If you'd like to pursue getting one of your photos selected for a postage stamp, here's a short article written by someone who had TWENTY of his photos selected for the 'O Beautiful' series of stamps issued in 2018. <https://petapixel.com/2018/07/10/how-my-photos-were-selected-for-us-stamps/>



Mr. Gowac's drone photo of the Arrigoni Bridge featured on the new stamp.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Meeting Schedule..... | 2 |
| Deadlines..... | 2 |
| New Annual Club Project..... | 3 |
| Upcoming Activities | 3 |
| Open Board Position..... | 3 |
| Resources and Events. | 4 |
| Tidbit #111..... | 4 |
| Requests..... | 5 |
| Club Competition..... | 6 |
| Senior Center Spring | 14 |
| Tops in CT Winner | 17 |
| Message from the President..... | 18 |
| Cartoon..... | 18 |

“Beauty can be seen in all things. Seeing and composing the beauty is what separates the snapshot from the photograph.” Matt Hardy.

OFFICERS

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| President | |
| Maryann Flick | 860-304-5693 |
| Vice President | |
| Cynthia Thibault | 860-267-0886 |
| Secretary | |
| Sue Frechette | 860-663-1372 |
| Treasurer | |
| Anne Mele | 860-205-1846 |
| Past President | |
| Archie Stone | 203-245-2381 |

COMMITTEES

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Exhibits | |
| Allison Maltese & Tina Case | 203-458-7916 |
| Hospitality | |
| Janet Rathbun | 203-484-2262 |
| Membership | |
| Dave Rathbun | 203-484-2262 |
| Newsletter | |
| Sue Frechette | 860-663-1372 |
| Programs | |
| Mark Janke | 203-457-1890 |
| Publicity | |
| Cynthia Thibault & Sue Frechette | 860-267-0886 |
| Digital Image Technology | |
| Open | |
| Webmaster | |
| Rob Nardino | 203-318-0831 |
| Activities | |
| Paula Chabot | 860-399-5414 |

2023-2024 TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

September 20, 2023—Meet and Great: first meeting of the season.
 October 4, 2023—Fall Show opening at Madison Senior Center.
 October 18, 2023—Critique meeting
 November 1, 2023—TBD
 November 15, 2023—TBD
 December 6, 2023—Pot Luck Holiday Party
 January 3, 2024—TBD
 January 17, 2024—Print Critique
 February 7, 2024—TBD
 February 14, 2024—Critique meeting
 March 6, 2024—TBD
 March 13, 2024—TBD
 April 3, 2024—NECCC 30 Slide Review
 April 17, 2024—Club Competition
 May 1, 2024—Spring Show Opening
 May 15, 2024—Review of Annual Club Project
 June 5, 2024—Annual Business meeting and Pot Luck Social

2023-2024 TENTATIVE DEADLINES

September 29, 2023—Date for digital images to be sent for Critique meeting
 September 30, 2023 10am-12pm —Hang date for Senior Center Fall Show
 October 29, 2023—Take down for Senior Center Show
 January 6, 2024 12pm-2pm—Hang date for Hospice Show
 March 16, 2024—Take down for Hospice
 April 27, 2024—Hang date for Senior Center Spring Show

NEW ANNUAL PROJECT FOR 2023-2024

For the upcoming 2023-2024 season, the theme for the annual club project will be “Four Seasons”. Make 4 or 5 images in each season. They should clearly depict the season that they represent. The subject is up to you. You can pick a specific subject and photograph this same subject each season or it can be different subjects that represent the season. Have fun with this and we will review the photos next May. If you don’t want to do this project, you may do a personal project instead. See the sidebar on the right for details.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

This past weekend some members visited Weir Farm, a National Historic Park in Wilton. Paula Chabot, our Activity chairperson is open to suggestions on more field trips this summer. Another outing being considered is a trip to Hollister Gardens in Washington, CT. The gardens are open every Wednesday morning for photographers and artists so we will be watching the weather and picking a Wednesday for a trip. If you are interested in joining us, or if you have some ideas, contact Paula Chabot at 860-399-5414 or chabotpaula@gmail.com.

<https://www.nps.gov/wefa/index.htm> - link to Weir Farm

<https://hollisterhousegarden.org/> - Link to Hollister Gardens

OPEN BOARD POSITION

The board is looking for a club member who can take over the position of Digital Image Technology. This position involves collecting, organizing and submitting (when appropriate) images that have been sent by club members for digital critiques and competitions, the NECCC 30 slide review, and any programs where our members have submitted photos to be viewed at a meeting such as images for the annual club project. It also includes showing these digital images at our meetings and running the NECCC 30 slide review commentary at our meeting. Skills that include computer file management and slide show creation and presentation are needed. If you have some of these skills and are willing to take on this role, please contact Maryann or anyone on the board.

NEW ANNUAL PROJECT FOR 2023-2024

This year we will continue two annual project choices. The “Members Choice” project is offered to members as an alternative to the annual project theme chosen by the club membership. Members can pick an area to practice or explore throughout the year. This can be done on your own or with another member working as a team. A scheduled club meeting will be allocated to presentations of personal projects.

The second annual project choice is titled “Four Seasons.” Take several photos in each of the four seasons. They should clearly depict the season. You can choose a specific subject and photograph it in each season or it can be different subjects that represent the seasons in some way. Have fun and we will review the photos next May.

FLICKR

Our club has a Flickr web site. Whenever you have an image that you’d would like to share with the club, consider adding it to the Flickr site. If you are not familiar with our Flickr site, here is the link. <https://www.flickr.com/groups/coastalcameraclub/>

We look forward to seeing your images.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for the upcoming season will be collected at the first meeting on Wednesday, September 21. Dues for individual members are \$30 for the 2023-2024 season. A family membership will be \$45 and student membership (age 18 or younger) is \$5. It is important for us to collect dues early in the season so that we can pay for speakers and other upcoming activities. If you cannot attend our first meeting, you can send a check to our treasurer, Anne Mele.

RESOURCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Connecticut College

Arboretum. The Arboretum is open to visitors this winter and provides ample photography opportunities. Go to <https://www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum/> for more information.

Classes and Meetups:

Milford Photo. Many classes and meetups scheduled throughout the winter offered at Milford Photo. For more information go to <https://www.milfordphoto.com/>

Workshops and

Events, Hunts Photo.

Many in-person and online classes and events scheduled throughout the winter offered at Hunts Photo. For more information go to <https://edu.huntsphoto.com>

TIDBIT #111

By Archie Stone

By Archie Stone

I watched the April club competition from home where I was able to look at the images on my large monitor. I watched from home, not because I don't like your company, but without a speaker system for the projector I have trouble hearing. Hopefully in the near future we will have a speaker system that will allow all to hear.

Being home also allowed me to more easily make notes on various points, both good and bad, that were not mentioned by the judges. Please understand, I do not have an issue with the judges. In fact, I liked their comments, but they did not comment unless a comment was requested.

One other thing; what you are about to read is only *my* opinion and I am sure others will have a different point of view. I have not identified individuals or images as these are general overall comments that I hope will be helpful.

When looking at an image that you are trying to capture, look for one main subject or point of interest. Everything else in the image should lead you to that subject, or play a supporting role. Conversely, every image should have a point of interest. This may require you to move your position, change to a different focal length, use depth of field to isolate, or change from horizontal to vertical with your camera.

Regarding always shooting everything with the camera horizontal; if you have a subject that is tall or only fills part of the frame, consider shooting with the camera vertical, or zoom-in to remove part of the image which makes the subject larger and removes negative space. If you would like to show more of the surrounding environment, move your subject in the frame to the one of the points when dividing your frame by thirds. This was done in a number of images with great success. You also have the ability to do this in post processing. Often, especially with flowers, I will hold my camera at an angle other than horizontal or vertical, to get the stem coming from one of the corners. If you do this, make sure you do not have an object or horizon in the image that needs to be level.

When looking at the image in the viewfinder or on the LCD, look at the space around the main subject and ask, does the space improve the image? Is it neutral, or is it taking away from the image? If it takes away from the image then recompose to remove it. If necessary, you can crop in post processing, but be aware that too much cropping will start to make your subject go soft.

Regarding placing the subject dead center; there are definitely subjects that work very well centered in the image, but for the most part it should be avoided, especially with wildlife. Wildlife photos need to show room for the wildlife to exit the scene, meaning that you should recompose so that there is more room to their front than in back. This allows the viewer to imagine the wildlife moving through the scene, not hitting the "brick wall" (edge of the frame).

With the landscape photos there were four things I noticed. The first was not enough depth of field to render the whole image sharp front to rear. If it was the makers choice to let the background go soft then it was not enough softness. The second was not cropping the edges to remove objects that take away from the images. When taking any photo, you need to watch the edges. You are not alone in this as I too forget to check the sides, top and bottom. This can easily be handled in post processing. Most software will allow you to crop to a camera ratio or free crop. Those that print to a standard camera ratio should use the camera ratio setting for your camera, but be aware it may take a little away from all sides. Lastly, centering the horizon is both a good and bad thing. Some images scream to have the horizon in the center, but in my opinion, they are few and far between. Most images need to have the horizon moved up or down from the center. Which way you do it will depend on what you select as the main subject. Last but not least are objects in the foreground that detract from an image. Except with a true nature shot, one that you will want to enter in the nature category, there is nothing wrong with policing the foreground to remove objects that detract from the scene. I have been known to bend a flower stalk out of the way, being careful not to break it, or take a stick and fling it aside. I am also guilty of putting an object into the scene such as red leaf on a patch of green grass.

So as not to leave you thinking that every image was in need of work, let me assure you that this is not the case. The whole purpose of this article is to get you thinking as you get ready to press the shutter button.

Last but not least the good points. Many of you used framing and leading lines to great advantage, bringing the viewer's eye into and holding it on the main subject. Wildlife was placed so that it had room to move into and through the image. A number of images had the main subject placed on the "golden mean" points. And I don't remember seeing any sloping horizon lines.

I will leave you with one little tidbit, "try and get it right in camera". In doing so it will save time in post processing.

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 and she'll publish it in the newsletter.

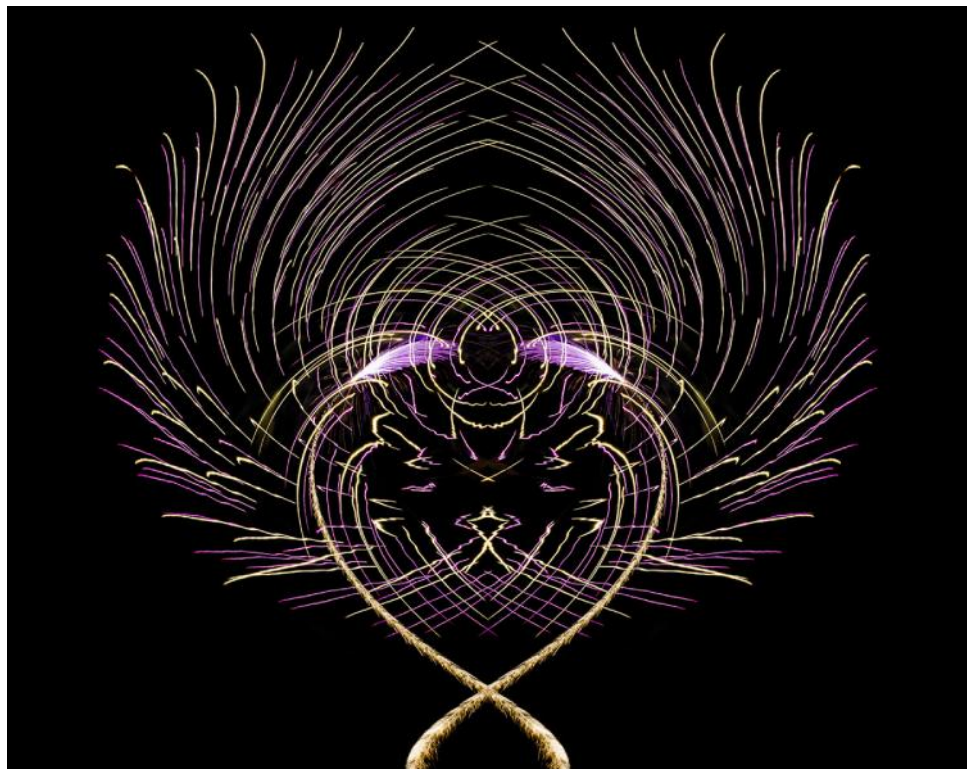
Photo Workshops and Tours: Have you recently participated in a photography workshop or tour? Please consider writing a brief review of your experience. Please comment on the leader/instructor, the location, the photo opportunities, the learning experience in general would you recommend it to others,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

CCC CLUB COMPETITION WINNERS

On March 1 we held a digital club competition. This is the second year that our club has held a competition of CCC members only. There were three categories: Open, Monochrome and Artistic. Here are all the images that placed.



Peter Chow's 'Through the Portal' image won first place in the Artistic category.



'Live Wires' by Maryann Flick won third place in the Artistic category.



This image was titled “Ray’ and won second place in the Artistic category. It is by John Blanton.



‘Twilight in NYC’ is Anne Mele’s first place winner in the Monochrome category.



‘Stonehenge’ is Peter Chow’s second place winning image in the Monochrome category.



Tying for second place in the Monochrome category was Maryann Flick's 'Engine 1630'.



Regina Hausmann's 'Hanging On' was a third place winner in the Monochrome category.



Tied for third place in the Monochrome category is Dave Rathbun's 'Waiting for Dinner'.



Maryann Flick's 'Eure River' also tied for third place in the Monochrome category.



‘Sunrise in Monument Valley’ was the first place winner in the Open category. Peter Chow is the maker.



‘Feed Me’ by Mark Janke took second place in the Open category.



This image by Maryann Flick is titled 'Blue Footed Boobie'. It won third place in the Open category.



'The Chase' by Regina Hausmann tied for third place in the Open category.



Allison Maltese's image titled 'Limpkin Fishing' also tied for third place in the Open category.



'The Pole Sitter' also tied for third place in the Open category. It is by Mark Janke.

SENIOR CENTER SPRING SHOW WINNERS

This May the club again held their spring show at the Senior Center. It was very successful with fifty-nine images submitted by thirteen members. Here are the first place winners in each of the six categories.



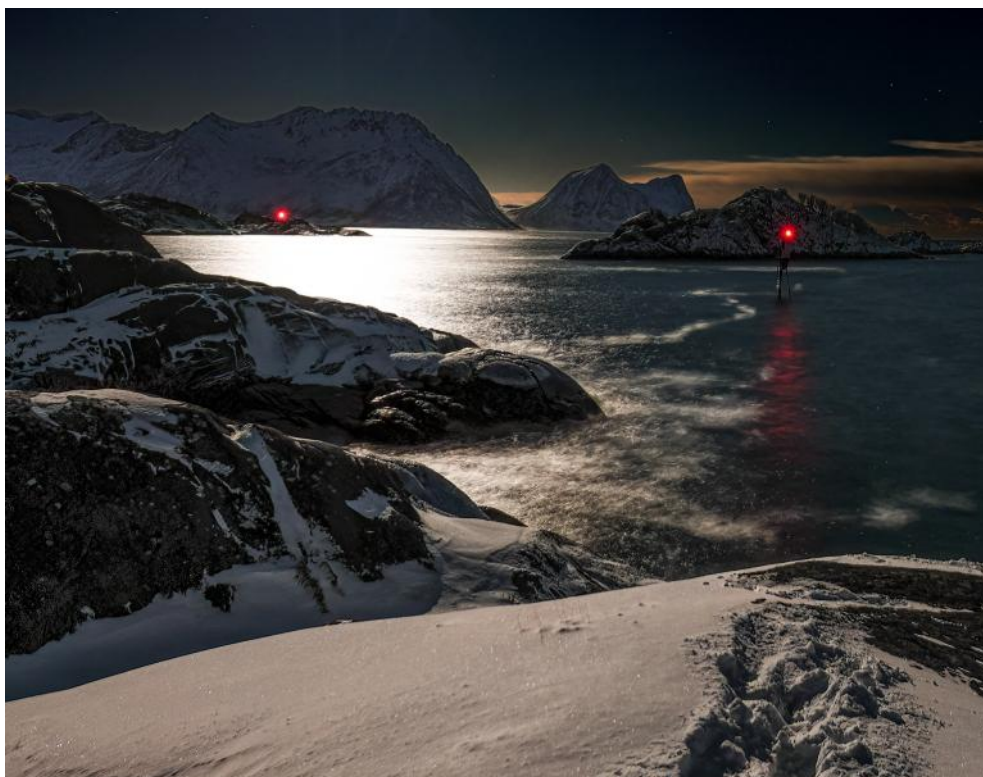
This image by Mark Janke won first place in the Architecture category and also was Best in Show. It is titled 'A Night of Balanshine'.



Maryann Flick's 'Wide Eyed Pup' took first place in the Nature category.



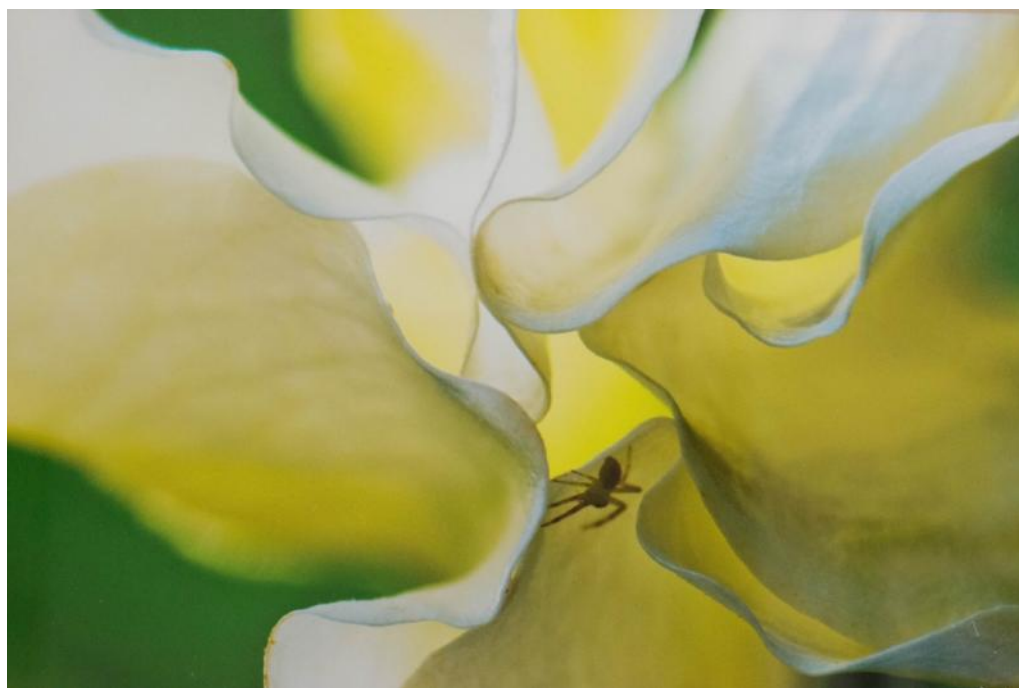
‘Grammie’ took first place in the People Category. John Armstrong is the maker.



This image is titled ‘Lofoten Archipelago’ and was taken by Mark Janke. It won first place in the Landscape/Seascape category.



Here is a photo by Dianne Roberts called 'Gerbera Daisy'. It won first place in the General category.



This image also by Dianne Roberts is called 'A Place to Hide'. It was the first place winner in the Nature Touched by Man category.

MARYANN FLICK WINS 'TOPS IN CT' AWARD

A very big CONGRATULATIONS goes out to this year's winner of the Creative category in the Connecticut Association of Photographers' annual competition, our fabulous president, Maryann Flick, for her image titled 'American Bald Eagle'.

The Connecticut Association of Photographers (CAP) is an organization open to Connecticut photographers of all skill levels. CAP holds field trips and events throughout the year, including this annual competition.

You can see all this year's competition results at <http://capinct.blogspot.com/2023/03/>.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

This is my 20th year with CCC. Have I learned anything? Absolutely! Slowly, bit by bit. Do I have more to learn? Absolutely! The best advice I have is to keep at it and enjoy the ride!

Have a great summer

Maryann



Submitted by Paula Chabot