



THE IMAGE

June 2021
Summer Issue

View From the Boardroom

By Janet Rathbun

My introduction to photography was just about three years ago. After having done different types of needlework, for over 35 years, I decided I needed to add a new hobby. I investigated entry-level cameras and looked into Nikon because that is the type of camera that my husband Dave has, and I knew I could count on him to teach me. Next thing I knew, at Dave’s suggestion, I had a Nikon D7500 camera and an 18-140mm lens, the kit lens that came with it. At that time, I also purchased an 18-55mm lens because I thought the camera with the 18-140mm lens might be too heavy carrying it around for a while, but that was not the case at all. Hence, I have very rarely used the 18-55mm lens. I have since gotten other lenses (a 24-70mm f2.8 lens and 70-300mm f4.5-5.6E lens), but my favorite is the one that I permanently “borrowed” from Dave, a Nikon 105mm macro lens. Close up photography is my favorite, and I particularly like taking pictures of flowers with a purposely out-of-focus blurred (bokeh) background. I really appreciated the opportunity to go to other members’ homes to photograph their flower gardens.

I use Lightroom to process my raw photos, and I occasionally bring them into Photoshop, Topaz Studio and/or Viveza to perform certain types of edits. I purchased Photoshop books and a Photoshop for Lightroom Users course, but I have found that I learn more by doing. Joining Coastal Camera Club and interacting with its members have inspired me. I have outgrown my hesitancy to enter my photographs in the club competitions and shows, and I am excited to have won ribbons in some categories.

I would like to branch out to do more with sunsets, still life and architecture. I can see that in my future. In addition, I recently inherited a full frame Nikon 750 camera when Dave upgraded to an 850 – more to learn. Sometimes it amazes me how much I’ve learned in the past three years - and it amazes me about how much more I have to learn. I am not giving up my quilting and embroidery, but now with photography I have much more to enjoy.

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*“The artist’s world is limitless. It can be found anywhere far from where he lives or a few feet away. It is always on his doorstep.”
...Paul Strand*

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2021-2022 TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

September 15, 2021—Meet and Greet; members’ summer project photos

October 6, 2021—TBD

October 20, 2021—Senior Center Fall Show Opening

November 3, 2021—Speaker Lisa Langell

November 17, 2021—Speaker David Long: Winter Landscape Photography

December 1, 2021—Holiday Potluck Party

January 5, 2022—TBD

January 19, 2022—Print Critique Meeting

February 2, 2022—Mark Janke Presentation on creating a slide show

February 16, 2022—Critique Meeting

March 2, 2022—TBD

March 16, 2022—40 Slide Review

April 6, 2022—CCC Competition

April 20, 2022—TBC

May 4, 2022—Gladeview Rehab Center Show Opening and Reception

May 18, 2022—Review of annual club project

June 1, 2022—Annual Business Meeting; potluck dinner

2021-2022 TENTATIVE DEADLINES

September 10, 2021—Summer project images sent to Louis at ccc.images@gmail.com

October 15, 2021—Hang Senior Center show

February 4, 2022—Critique images sent to Louis at ccc.images@gmail.com

April 1, 2022—Competition photos sent to Louis at ccc.images@gmail.com

April 30, 2022—Hang Gladeview Rehab Show

May 13, 2022—Annual Club Project images sent to Louis at ccc.images@gmail.com

ANNUAL CCC PROJECTS FOR 2021-2022

For the upcoming 2021-2022 season the board has come up with two different annual projects. Members may consider doing just one or both projects. “My Town” is a fun project that offers members a chance to explore the uniqueness of ordinary things that can be found in any town. Our members reside in thirteen different area towns. The following list represents places that are in most towns. Members are asked to take pictures of some or all of the things on this list in your own town. Consider taking photos of the same place in different seasons.

1. House of Worship
2. Store
3. Restaurant
4. Tree
5. Town Green
6. Street Corner
7. Big House
8. Little House
9. Water (Lake, Pond, River, Shore)
10. Statue
11. Town Hall
12. School
13. Library
14. Post Office
15. Fire or Police Station
16. Garden
17. Playground
18. Historic Site
19. Industry
20. Sign

The second project for members to try is a team project. Members will choose to work with another member of the club on a mutually agreed upon area of interest. The team may do shoots together or separately but will combine their work at some during the year and present it to the membership. The project may be worked on for only a few months or throughout the year. The idea is to pick a topic or photography area where you want to improve your skills. Teams will combine their work and present it to the club membership at some time during the year. More details of his project will be discussed at our first meeting in September. A signup sheet with suggested topics will be passed around for members interested in participating.

NEW ANNUAL PROJECT FOR 2021-2022

There are two themes for our 2021-2022 Annual Project. You may choose to do one of these ideas or both. The first theme is titled “My Town.” Our members reside in 13 towns. A list of places or things that each town contains has been created. Your assignment is to take pictures of some or all of these items in your town. More details are provided on this page.

The second annual project choice is titled “Members Choice.” Two club members team up and collaborate on a shared project that can last a few months or the full year. The team will determine areas of mutual interest based on improving skills. See section on this page for more info.

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

The board has determined that we will start collecting dues again in the fall. Dues will be collected regardless of whether we start in person meetings again or continue to meet only on zoom.

MEETUPS

If you are planning to do some photography at a CT park or someplace else and would like to be joined by some club members, please send a note to Maryann so that she can distribute it to the membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

NECCC 2021 Online Event: Saturday, July 17. This year the NECCC is holding a one day online event. **Registration is now open.** Go to <https://necccphotoconference.org/neccc-2021-online-event> for more information.

Sedona Virtual Photography Symposium: August 13-14. Titled "Unleash Your Inner Artist". World class presentations streamed. Tickets required. For more information go to <https://sedonaphotosym.org/>

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

TIDBIT 106: WHAT LENS IS BEST FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

By Archie Stone

This is an updated article from a 2008 newsletter.

Which Lens is Best for What Purpose?

Wide Angle Lens: 17mm (or even less) to 35mm (35 mm equivalent).

- Very useful for taking wide vistas.....exactly why they are the hardest lens for most photographers to use.
- One of the most useful ways to use it is to put the foreground very close, and in focus using a very small aperture. It increases the 3-dimensional feel. Becomes a more intimate shot recording from near to far.
- Wide angle lenses are the hardest to manufacture...don't skimp. Get a good one. John Shaw's favorite is a 20-35mm f2.8.

Normal Range Lens: 35 to 70mm (35mm equivalent).

- Most under-rated group of lenses Particularly the plain vanilla 50mm f1.8 or 2.8 lens. Yet, these middle of the road lenses, are probably the most versatile. They're also good for less "grand" vista wide landscapes. You can be a little more selective in framing the landscape shot. A 50/60mm f1.8 macro lens is probably about the sharpest, highest optical quality lens made. It can be used anywhere a 50mm lens works.
- For a zoom, Shaw recommends a 35-70 f2.8....don't get a slower lens.

Short Telephoto: 70 to 200mm (35mm equivalent).

- 70 (or 80) - 200mm is probably the most popular lens sold today. All the f2.8 models are of excellent quality.
- If you get a 70-200mm lens or fixed focal length lens, make sure it has a tripod collar. You'll need it. These lenses are hefty.
- Short telephotos don't compress (or decompress) between objects.
- They're great for isolating a section of a landscape to make a "landscape portrait".
- Good for doing shots where you physically can't get close enough to do a wide angle shot.
- Short telephotos are good for field nature photography because they're "relatively" easy to lug around.
- Short telephotos make excellent portrait lenses.
- The human eye perspective is about the same as a 105 mm lens. So, images of this focal length are pleasing "familiar" to the eye.
- At 200mm – the longest of the short lens, or the shortest of the long lens, can be used to get some wildlife shots.....either large mammals or animals in environmental settings. If you have a bird feeder set up they can also be used for close ups of birds, less than 3 feet away.
- Hand holding these lenses is possible, just remember shutter speed should be $>1/X$, where "X" is the focal length. For example, if shooting at 200mm, then shutter speed should be faster than 1/200 sec. Also, include your digital sensor factor. So a 200mm lens becomes a $1.6 \times 200\text{mm} = "320\text{mm}"$ lens in asp-c and shutter speed goes up accordingly. Image stabilized lenses do let you break this rule, but not as much as you think it will.

Long Telephoto Lens: 300mm and up (35mm equivalent).

- The 70-300mm f4-f5.6 weighs only about 1lb and costs around \$400. For any other long lens, plan on bringing a pickup truck full of money and using the same truck to haul around your lens. For instance, a 300mm f2.8 lens costs about \$5000 and weighs in at 8 lbs. A 600mm f.4 lens is about 18 lbs. and \$10,000. Yes, since writing this article the price has dropped some due to competition and if you are using an aps-c or micro 4/3rd format, they definitely are lighter, smaller and less expensive. This has to do with the size of the glass used.
- If you're going to shoot wildlife.....particularly birds, you can't get big enough. 500mm to 600mm lens are a must if you want close to a full frame shot.
- Remember that 105mm is about the perspective of the human eye....so a 600mm lens is about 6x magnification. Most good birding binoculars are 7x to 10x, and they don't put birds on the end of your nose.....only a high power spotting scope can do that.
- One "cheap" alternative to a long lens is to buy a top quality spotting scope like a Swarovski, 20 to 60x scope and a good 3x point and shoot digital camera. With the scope at 20x and the camera at 3x, that's a total magnification of 60xor the same as a 600mm lens. Which would be about 18 ft. long and weigh in like a sequoia tree.
- If you're thinking of getting a long lens...get the brightest, fastest one you can afford. For us mere mortals supporting ourselves, the 300mm f4 is an excellent, very fast lens. A 1.4x or 2x teleconverter can be used with this lens to make a 420mm f5.6 or 600mm f8 equivalence. While these apertures are not ideal, they're usable except in low light.

Macro Lens: 50/60mm, 90/100mm, and 180 or 200mm (35mm equivalent).

- Used for high magnification close-up work.
- Almost all **true 1:1** macro lens are fixed focal length. All have beautiful optics. And all have optics that are meant to be at there very best at their minimum focusing distance.
- These lenses also make great general purpose lens of their particular focal length.
- Long macro lenses (200mm) are meant for 1:1 work at greater distances (18 to 20") from the subject. Necessary when you don't want to "scare" the subject. (Ever try to get 3" away from a healthy dragonfly? Good Luck!)
- Can use long telephoto with converter to get close to 1:1.

Since first writing this tidbit things have changed in that consumer, fixed focal length and zoom lenses with variable aperture are getting better. They have the advantage of being smaller, lighter and less expensive. That being said, if you are serious about your photograph and want the best, a fixed focal length lens with an aperture of f1.4/1.8 and a zoom lens with the aperture the same through the zoom, most are f2.8 or f4 is the way to go.

In all of the seminars and workshops I have attended, they emphasize spending money on the best lenses you can afford and go with a lesser body. This is because a good lens gives you a better image striking the film or sensor.

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.

CLUB COMPETITION WINNERS

On April 7 the club had its first spring virtual competition. Members met on a zoom meeting and while images were displayed, three judges from the Castle Craig Camera Club did the judging. The following are the winning images.



‘The Grand Canal’ by Peter Chow - 1st Place in the Open Category



‘Two Willets’ by Allison Maltese - 2nd Place in the Open Category



‘Robin Babies’ by Dianne Roberts - 3rd Place in the Open Category



‘Little Hunters Beach’ by Maryann Flick - 3rd Place in the Open Category



‘Maggie’ by Allison Maltese’ - 1st Place in the Black & White Category



‘Old Mill’ by Janet Rathbun - 2nd Place in the Black & White Category



‘On the Grand Canal’ by Peter Chow - 3rd Place in the Black & White Category



‘Land Before Time’ by Peter Chow - 1st Place in the Digital Art Category



'American Eagle' by Maryann Flick - 2nd Place in the Digital Art Category



'The Penguin's Lair' by Peter Chow - 2nd Place in the Digital Art Category



'Earth Mother' by Allison Maltese - 3rd Place in the Digital Art Category

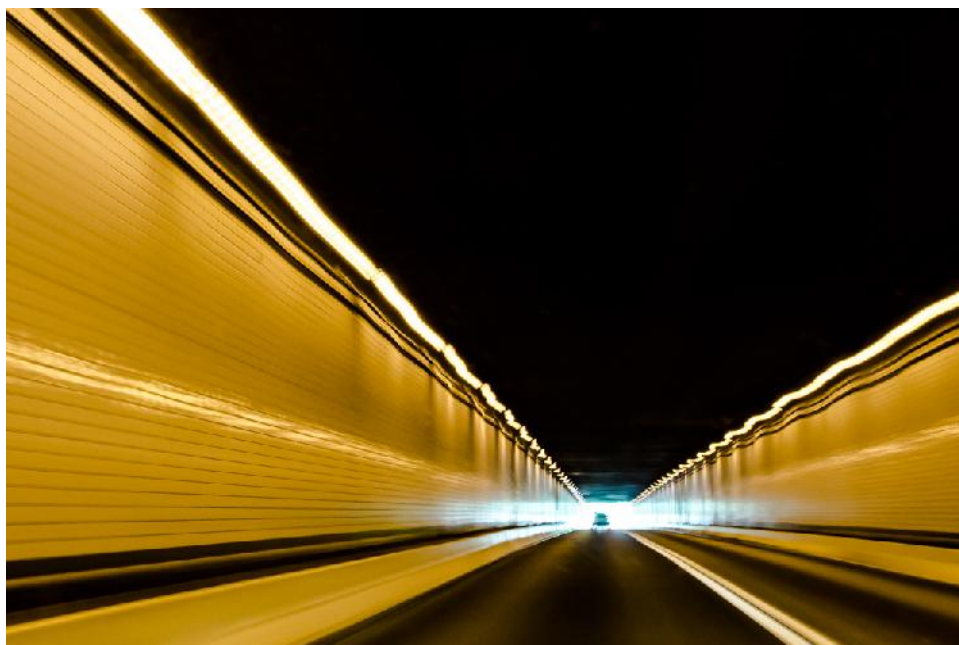
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

The last 15 months have certainly tested us in many ways. I believe we are all changed in some way that may never heal, but there is "Light at the End of the Tunnel". And I hope we all become stronger as we move toward the light. Photography can be therapeutic so perhaps if we channel all the pent up feelings from this past year through our art, the way forward will come into focus and we'll be on the road to healing. Take some time to make art that comes from your heart.

Have a fulfilling summer and I hope to see you in person in the Fall.

Maryann



"The Light at the End of the Tunnel", Pennsylvania Turnpike, through the windshield, August 2012, f/11, 1/3 sec, ISO 800, 28mm, slightly cropped