



THE IMAGE

February 2023
Winter Issue

View From the Boardroom

By Susan Frechette

When I joined this club in 2014, I wanted to improve my photography but I had no aspirations of displaying stunning photos in my house. My goal was to learn to take better snapshots. Improving vacation photos of landscapes and historical buildings was a goal but I was more interested in getting good family shots. I’ve learned a great deal about composition, camera techniques and photo editing and my images have improved greatly over the years. And although I do have a few favorite photos hanging in my office, it’s the snapshots of my family that have the most value to me.

All that I’ve learned about photography has helped me to take better snapshots. I no longer have poorly exposed or out of focus photos or images with messy back-grounds. And any images that are less than perfect can almost always be fixed with editing. I have been scrapbooking since the 1990’s, well before I had a digital camera. Scrapbooking to me is really about preserving memories. They might be memories of a beautiful place I’ve been to but more important are the memories of the people in my life and preserving these photos for my descendants. I consider a scrapbook to be more of a photo journal. One of the most important things about scrapbooking is to identify where and when the photo was taken and most importantly who the people are in the photo. Not just their names but also what their relationship is to you. If you can tell more about the people and what was going on in the photo, this will add more interest. I sometimes include pages of memoir in my scrapbooks.

It’s always been a challenge to preserve photos for future generations. You may have ‘inherited’ a big box of loose photos of people you’ve never seen before. Haven’t you wondered who they are? Maybe a cousin or a great uncle or aunt. Today with digital cameras and phones, it is much easier to preserve our photos but most people don’t have the interest or time. We love to take pictures with our phones but most of those snapshots are at best posted on social media and then forgotten and lost forever.

I approach each scrapbook as a project that has a theme with a beginning and end. Some of my scrapbooks have focused on an important event. Maybe a wedding or milestone birthday. I’ve recently started a scrapbook of myself. I’m including my baby and childhood pictures but I’m also including my family. I want this book to tell a story about myself, what my life has been like, and who I am. I mostly make paper scrapbooks but there is great advantage to doing digital scrap-booking. Creating a hardcover book with journaling and photographs is a won-derful way to provide a keepsake for your children, grandchildren or other people in your life. If you have an interest in your heritage and preserving memories for your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, think about doing a scrap-book.

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*“Be yourself. I much prefer seeing something, even if it’s clumsy, that doesn’t look like somebody else’s work.”
...William Klein.*

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

February 15, 2023—Critique Meeting: Send Images by 2/3

March 1, 2023—Club Competition

March 15, 2023—Lisa Langell—Birds in Flight Photography

April 5, 2023—NECCC 30 Slide Review

April 19, 2023—Chris McGinnis program on Macro Photography

May 3, 2023—Spring Show Opening at Madison Senior Center

May 17, 2023—Review of Annual Club Project Photos

June 7, 2023—Annual Business Meeting and Potluck Dinner

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2023 TENTATIVE DEADLINES

March 25, 2023—Take down photos at CT Hospice during open hours

May 1, 2023—Senior Center Show Hang

May 10, 2023—Annual Club Project images sent to Maryann

June 2-4, 2023—Tentative take down dates for Senior Center Show

NEW ANNUAL PROJECT FOR 2022-2023

For the upcoming 2022-2023 season, the theme for the annual club project will be “Motion and Stillness”. This project leaves it to the makers to decide how to interpret the theme. It could include intentional camera movement (ICM), panning, blurred motion, freezing the motion in action shots, still life, serenity, reflections showing stillness or motion, etc. For more info, see the grey sidebar on the right.

MEMBERS' PAGE

In the past two years our in-person meetings have been sporadic due to Covid. As a result, members have not had the face to face interactions that our club had become accustomed to and we've found it harder to get to know one another. To help our members get better acquainted, we are creating a 'Members' Page' on the club website. Cynthia has designed the page and has sent a survey to all members. The info from the survey will be posted on this new page. Please spend a few minutes answering the questions in the survey and please upload a photo of yourself and a few of your favorite images that you'd like members to see.

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 2022-2023

This year we will continue the “Members Choice” project where two club members team up and collaborate on a shared project that can take a few months or the whole year to complete. Last season we had four teams working on projects. Two teams presented their work to the club at a meeting this past spring. The other two teams have not yet completed their project. They plan to present their work sometime during the upcoming year. Members are encouraged to team up with another club member and try something new and present your work to the club.

The second annual project choice is titled “Motion and Stillness.” We will leave it to the maker to determine how to interpret this theme. The intent is to get members think about the ways to use shutter speed to capture movement vs. stillness. Think about intentional camera movement (ICM), panning, blurred movement, freezing action, etc. Consider shooting the same subject still vs. in motion: high shutter speed vs. long exposure. Examples: water movement, sports or dance, windy vs. calm. It will be up to you to pick your subjects and capture images of them in ways that interpret motion and stillness.

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 \$25 for the 2022-2023 season. A family membership will be \$40 and student membership 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

Article About ‘Crop Factor’. Dave Rathbun provided this link to a very good article on the topic of crop factor. The website has many informative articles and is a great resource for information on a variety of photography topics. To see the Crop Factor article **Go to** <https://photographylife.com/what-is-crop-factor>

Ian Plant Webinar ‘Creative Landscape Photography Techniques’. For anyone who missed the program we had on January 19th, it can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nK9uNKQSGU

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 <https://edu.huntsphoto.com>

TIDBIT #110

By Archie Stone

This is a tidbit from a previous newsletter. The beginning part was first written in 2004 but it still holds true today.

Although it is true that we will occasionally get a great photograph on a trip, most of the time when we are traveling, we don’t have the ability to wait around for the perfect light or come back when it is not raining. If by some luck we are spending a few days in one spot, we may be able to go back at sunrise or sunset and try again but usually we have moved on as, ‘if this is Tuesday then it must be Spain.’

Why do I bring this up? Simple; because we will get our best images in our own back yard. Figuratively, not literally, or maybe literally too. How does this happen? Because it is close, we can visit in any season, any weather and any time of the day. If the sun is not in the right location, just wait a little and go back and see where it is in a week, or month or even in a different season. If we shoot the scene and have an exposure, focus or depth of field problem we can return and re-do the shoot.

I also find that the more times I return to a site the more I see. For once, familiarity does not breed contempt but the ability to see images I may not have seen before. While this is a definite in landscape, architecture and nature shooting it also works in portraiture, whether with people or animals. The more you have the “person” model for you, the more you will “see” of the person and the better you will be able to work with the “model” to get the pose you want. This also works for the “model” as the more they model for you, the more comfortable they become in front of your camera.

This was proven at my nephew’s wedding, this summer, when the professional photographer set up a backdrop with studio lighting. She got three girls ages 3 to 5 and had them pose for her. Two were very stiff and would not smile but my granddaughter, who has had a camera literally in her face since she was hours old, was totally relaxed and was even taking directions from the photographer (something she refuses to do for her grandfather).

So even if you don’t get to travel, or get the best shot on your trip, don’t despair. You will usually get your winning images close to home.

An aside. At our meeting on February 1, 2023, Mark was talking to a new member about Depth of Field (DOF). In the old film days three things controlled DOF; aperture, lens focal length and subject to camera (not lens) distance.

As we have now all gone digital, there is one more to add and that is sensor size. If you all remember or may still use the digital point and shoot cameras, everything appeared to be sharp and in focus. You could not do any creative softening. Why? Because the size of the sensor was about the size of the nail on your little finger.

Now most cameras have four primary sizes; one inch, micro four thirds, aps-c and full frame. I will discuss two; the MFT and full frame. The MFT sensor is $\frac{1}{4}$ the size of the FF and as such has a greater (twice as great) DOF than the FF given everything else being equal. For the MFT to have the same DOF as the FF at an aperture of say F8, the MFT would have to use an aperture of F4.

This is something you need to think about when in the field and especially if you are purchasing a camera. The MFT makes a good wildlife and landscape camera where we want a great DOF and everything to appear in focus, while the FF is best if you are doing artistic images and need to have the greater control over DOF.

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.

WINTER SHOW AT THE CONNECTICUT HOSPICE IN BRANFORD

January 14th was the opening of the club's winter show at the Connecticut Hospice in Branford. Thirteen members have each filled a 3x5 foot space with framed images that fit a theme chosen by the maker. This show was not judged. Here are some of the images that are currently on exhibit.



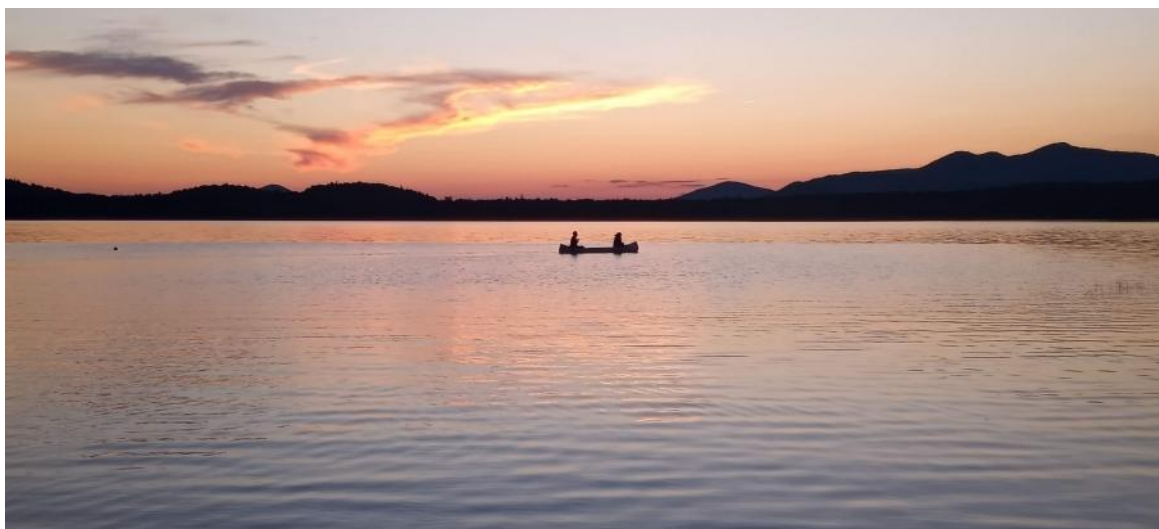
Dave Rathbun is showing images of Birds of Connecticut. Here is his photo of a Great Egret.



Mark Janke is exhibiting photos from his trip to Australia. This one is titled 'I'd Rather Have Root Beer'.



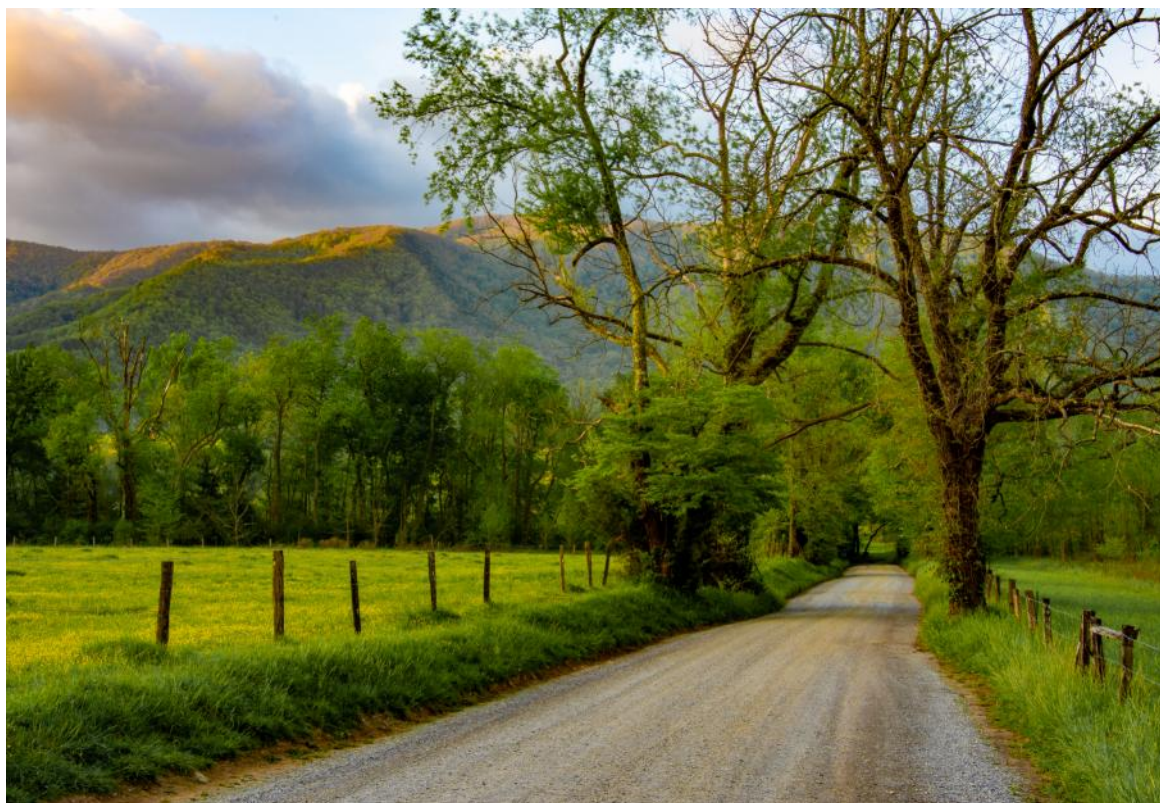
This is Janet Rathbun's photo of the Ogunquit Cliff Walk in Maine. Her theme is New England Landscapes



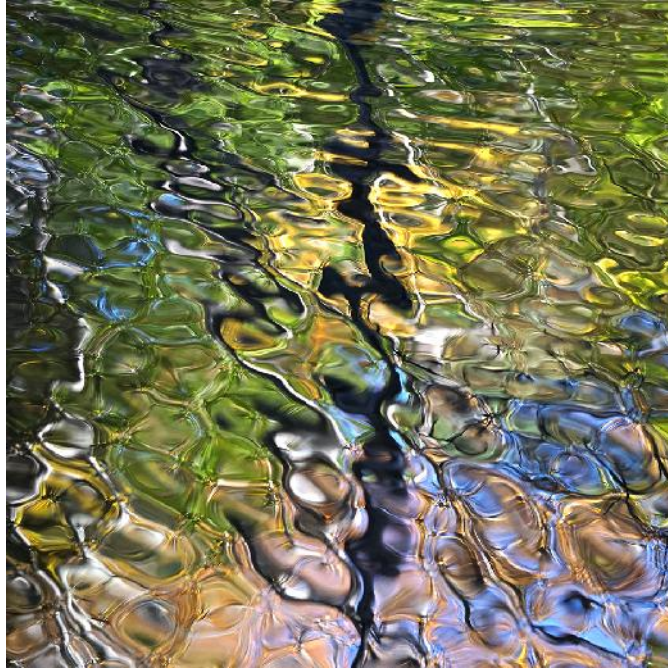
This beautiful sunset was photographed by Dylan McMahon. He is exhibiting pictures that he took at Lake Placid last summer.



This image by Maryann Flick shows two sea lions from the Galapagos Islands which was her theme. It is titled 'Kisses from Mom'.



Sue Frechette's photos were all taken in the Smoky Mountains last spring. This one is called 'Smoky Mountain Dirt Road'.



'Water as Canvas' is Allison Maltese's theme. She calls this one 'River Rift'.



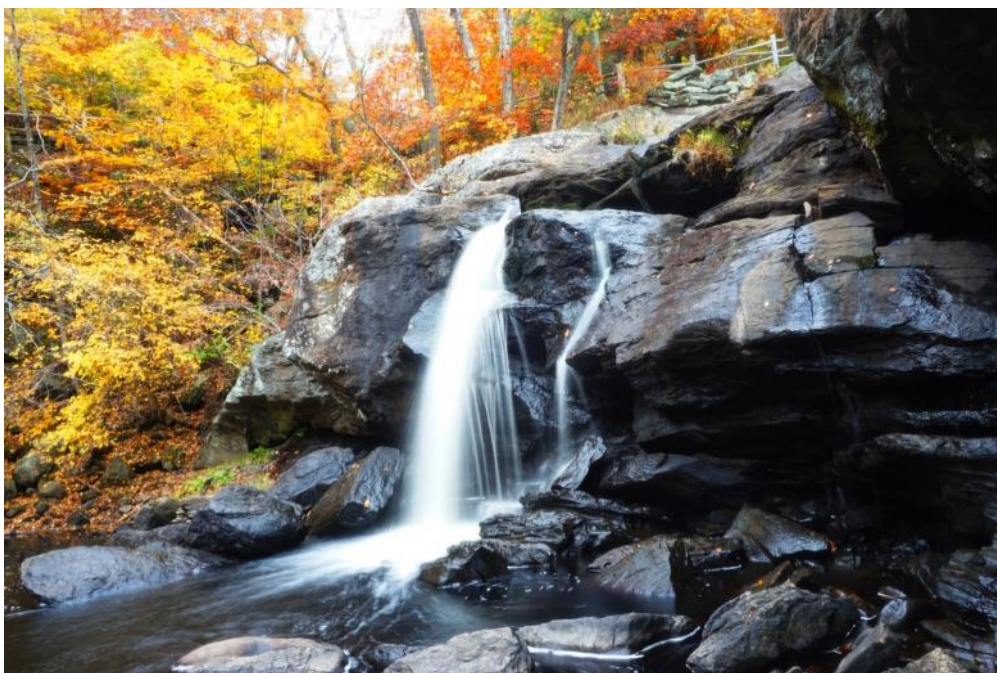
Tina Case's theme is beach photos. This is titled 'Sunset Gulls'.



Here is a photo by Dianne Roberts called 'Floating Flower'. Her theme is Flowers.



Regina Hausmann did multiple exposures of flowers. She titled this one 'By the Sea'.



Alexandra Stephen chose the theme 'Nature in the Fall'. This image was taken in Devils's Hopyard.



Betsy Schwammburger is exhibiting photos that she took along a path in her own backyard. She titled this one 'Woods in the Winter'.



Carol Lowbeer's images were all creatively enhanced. Her theme was called 'Five Seascapes to Dream By' and this one is titled 'A Glimpse of Heaven'.

LISA LANGELL—MARCH 15TH—BIRDS IN FLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

On Wednesday March 15th, we will again be hosting a live webinar by Lisa Langell. You may remember Lisa when she presented to us several years ago. This time her program focuses on “Better Birds in Flight Photography.” Photographing birds in flight (BIF) and motion can be challenging for even the most experienced photographers. This live, engaging webinar session will break down what settings and techniques may work best for you with regard to photographing birds in flight. She’ll take it slow, make it easy, and make it make sense for you!

This webinar will involve video and interactive activities that will help you learn and keep it interesting! Via warm, friendly and supportive instruction, this class will help get you on your way to photographing birds in motion beautifully!

Designed for those with DSLR and mirrorless cameras, we will focus upon the following skills:

- Focus settings

- Setting the proper focus points

- Best aperture and shutter speed settings for photographing birds in motion

- Finding the bird in the frame before you can photograph it

- Composition, panning, and related techniques for artistic effect

- How to envision the design, look and feel of your image prior to shooting

Ms. Langell is a full-time, award-winning photographer whose work has appeared in numerous prestigious publications including the cover of Outdoor Photographer magazine, plus numerous images in Arizona Highways, Ranger Rick, art galleries and more. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the North American Nature Photography Association. She is also a proud ambassador for Tamron, FotoPro, and H&Y filters. You can see more of her work at <https://www.langellphotography.com>.



CHRIS MCGINNIS — APRIL 19TH—MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

On Wednesday April 19th, the club will hear a live program on Macro Photography by Chris McGinnis. Chris McGinnis is a professional photographer residing in Bethlehem PA. He holds a degree in graphic design from Moravian Collage and has worked for Olympus for the past sixteen years. He is currently their Director of Creative Services and oversees all phases of Olympus graphic design, photography and video production. His passion is Macro Photography. He shoots with an OM System OM-1 and is an OM System Ambassador. You may read more about him or see his work at <https://www.chrismcginnis.com/>.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

This Fall will mark my 20th anniversary with CCC—and I'm guessing about 16-17 years as President. That's crazy!!! Anyway I have been thinking about how the club has changed over that time. In 2003 we met in the basement of The Depot which was located where the fire department building is today. Only a few members were shooting digital. Competitions were with slides and prints. If you wanted to crop a slide image you had to use special tape. Everything else had to be correct right out of your camera! What a concept eh?! A few years down the line as Photoshop became more and more powerful, the big controversy was over how much editing/post processing should be allowed in competition and exhibits. Up to that point almost anything that altered your image had to be put in the Artistic category, i.e. stitched panoramas. Was it okay or not to clone out wires or a piece of trash? Whew! Glad that era passed! The newsletter, The Image, was published monthly during the club year and sent out by USPS mail. It contained all the necessary information for upcoming meetings, activities, exhibits and competitions as well as Archie's long running "Tidbits" column. (Just came across #96 in a 2015 issue!!!) There was no Members' Handbook. There was no web site. And there was no Zoom. We did not use email for club business. If we had to cancel a meeting due to bad weather, we had a "phone tree" to call members. But one thing has not changed and that is the friendliness and laid back nature of our members. Keep it up!

Maryann

P.S. Looking for someone to take over as Prez.



Submitted by Paula Chabot