THE IMAGE

September 2025
Fall Issue

View From the Boardroom

By Susan Frechette

Since I joined the Coastal Camera Club and started learning photography, landscape photography has been my main focus. It's the category I view first when I'm at a show and my landscape photography skills are what I've been striving to perfect. It's not always that easy. Getting up early to shoot a sunrise is hard for me. I've never been a morning person. I also don't like walking in the dark with headlamps and standing with my tripod for an hour or more in potentially below freezing temperatures (not always the situation). But even if conditions turn out poor for photographing a sunrise, it's worth it to experience being on a beach or coastal cliff with only the sound of the birds or the ocean waves to start your day.

So, after learning and practicing landscape photography for many years, my interest has now shifted to photographing birds. I've always enjoyed birds, like the backyard songbirds that come to my feeders and take baths in my birdbath. But I'm not a 'birder' and I hadn't really taken much notice of their beauty until I started taking pictures of them. A photography workshop on owls and raptors started it off. I spent a weekend taking photographs of many different birds and was able to get close up shots of owls and raptors as they posed on perches.

One of my photos was of a Eurasian Hawk Owl named 'Jack'. I took dozens of photos, paying close attention to the histogram and focus and getting shots from different angles, backgrounds and different apertures. That evening, I looked at my images and I was stunned to see that Jack's eyes were a striking deep orange. I didn't notice the color of his eyes when I was taking the photos. I didn't notice them even when I stood not more than a foot away from him so my friends could take a picture of us together. I was too excited to notice any details. It was the photo that showed me what he really looked like; the rich colors of his feathers, the features of his beak and talons and those deep orange eyes.

Since that workshop I've been spending more time taking pictures of birds and less time taking landscape photos. This summer I went to Newfoundland to photograph icebergs and puffins. We were taken to the town of Bonavista where thousands of puffins nest on an island that is close enough for people to view them from about 30 feet. I took lots of pictures but I also spent a long time just sitting and watching them. They were amazing of course. Later in the trip I also visited another area in Newfoundland where thousands of gannets nest on the coastal cliffs all summer. I know that gannets stop on the Connecticut shore in the spring during their migration north but this was the first time I'd ever seen one.

We may not have puffins and gannets on our shores, but one thing we do have is an abundance of herons, egrets, osprey, bald eagles, and lots of other birds. Now, when hiking or taking a walk or kayaking, I watch for them. I've been practicing getting shots of them in flight or in their nest with their mate and chicks. There are owls everywhere too. And sometimes they'll pose for you. I took this photo of my neighbor, Mr. Barred Owl, right in my driveway through my car windshield. I saw him again a couple days later but haven't seen him since. I know he's out there though. I hear him and his mate calling back and forth almost every night.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meeting Schedule.....2
Deadlines.....2
New Annual Club Project.....3
Activities Committee 3
Judges Needed.....3
Board Positions.....3
Activities..... 4
Gillette Castle Photo Walk 5
Club Competition..... 6
Mark Battista Program.....13
Senior Center Show.....14
Summer Carnival Photos.....18
Letter from the President.....20
Cartoon.....20

"Photography, as we all know, is not real at all. It is an illusion of reality with which we create our own private world."....Arnold Newman

2025—2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

September 17, 2025—Meet and Greet; Member submitted summer photos presented.

October 1, 2025—Choose member images for NECCC Fall competition

October 15, 2025– Mark Battista: "Composition: Shooting with Intent"

November 5, 2025—Guilford Free Library Fall Show Opening

November 19, 2025—Peter Chow: Long Exposure Photography

December 3, 2025—Holiday Pot Luck Party

January 7, 2026—Choose member images for NECCC Winter and Spring Competitions

January 21, 2026—David Long: "Water—Falling, Flowing and Reflecting"

February 4, 2026—Digital Critique

February 18, 2026– Hands on activity: Mini-HiJinx

March 4, 2026—Katherine Dickson: "Self Portraiture"

March 18, 2026—Print Critique

April 1, 2026—NECCC 15 Image Review

April 15, 2026—CCC Club Competition

May 6, 2026—Senior Center Spring Show Opening

May 20, 2026—Review of Club Annual Project

June 3, 2026—Annual Business Meeting; Pot Luck Social

2025—2026 DEADLINES

September 15, 2025– Submissions for NECCC fall competition images

November 1, 2025– Guilford Free Library Drop off Images 10-12; 1-5 hang

November 29, 2025—Guilford Free Library Take down 2-4:30 or 11/30 1:30-3:30

January 3, 2026—CT Hospice Drop off images 12-2; 2-5 hang

March 14, 2026—CT Hospice Take Down; anytime during open hours

April 27, 2026—Madison Senior Center hang date 4-8pm

May 29, 2026—June 1, 2026 —Madison Senior Center Take Down

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 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 860-267-0886
& Sue Frechette

Digital Image Technology
Open

Webmaster
Rob Nardino 203-318-0831

Activities
Paula Chabot 860-399-5414
& John Gluszak

ANNUAL PROJECT FOR 2025—2026

This year the board has decided to select two yearly projects. You may choose the one that interests you most or do both. The first project is "Working the Subject". Choose a subject (object, location, person, etc.), photograph it in several different ways (different perspectives, lighting changes, season or time of year, different backgrounds, etc.) Submit 3-8 of your images for the May 20th meeting. The second project is "Long Exposures". Peter Chow will be doing a presentation on this subject in November. You might want to practice some of the skills and techniques that Peter presents and show your work at the May 20th meeting.

ACTIVITIES

John Gluszak and Paula Chabot are organizing activities and photo shoots for the club. A regular monthly activity schedule has been taking place as well as a monthly instructional session. Please see John Gluszak's article with more details on page 4 of this newsletter.

JUDGES NEEDED

We need more judges to help with judging shows and competitions for our 'sister' clubs here in Connecticut. Our club has a reciprocal obligation to provide judges for these events and in turn, they provide judges for our events. A judging class taught by Archie Stone is planned for sometime this fall. Please consider signing up for the class and volunteering to help with judging when asked.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

This year we have two members who have joined the board. John Gluszak is co-chairing the Activities committee with Paula Chabot. John has been working to provide an activity every month that will offer instructional content and also an offsite activity. Please see his article on page 4 of this newsletter. Katherine Dickson has volunteered to take over the coordination of obtaining judges for our judged shows and the club competition as well as providing CCC member judges for other clubs when needed. Thank you both for volunteering for these positions.

We are still looking for a club member willing and able to 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.

ANNUAL PROJECT FOR 2024-2025

Again this year there are a selection of yearly projects for our members to try. There are two choices this year. Try one or do both; they are all fun and your photography will benefit.

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 individual members are $30 for the 2024-2025 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. Checks can be given 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 **https://edu.huntsphoto.com**

ACTIVITIES

By John Gluszak

Paula and I are looking forward to a new season of scheduled activities that will be fun and will offer opportunities for photo shoots and other sessions that provide a chance to try something new and/or improve skills you may already have. Our goal is to offer two activities each month.

Bunsen and Beaker Labs: We have scheduled a room at the Westbrook Library to use every fourth Wednesday of the month from 2pm-4pm. The intent of this session is to offer a monthly tech lab opportunity for members to get immediate help with a current problem or issue they may be having. I've been surveying members to find topics that one or more members want to discuss and then I've let the membership know what the topic of the upcoming meeting will be. So far we've helped with transferring images between cameras and computers, doing slideshow presentations, and basic photo organization. At the September 24th and October 22nd sessions Peter Chow will be teaching a two part Photoshop training class. These sessions are intended for people who want to learn PS as well as those beginners who want to get a better understanding of the basics. Session 1 will cover layers, smart objects and smart filters. Session 2 will cover adjusting layers and masking. Please let me know by 9/10 if you intend to participate in Peter's class.

Monthly Activity: We've been scheduling a regular offsite monthly activity for members to participate in. So far we've had a museum visit, a carnival night shoot to practice long exposures (see photos on pages 10 and 11), and a photo shoot at Gillette Castle with a focus on "The Art of Seeing". Some fall activities include a Sunfish Regatta on Rogers Lake in Old Lyme followed by a picnic at my house afterwards on September 20th and a visit to Yantic Falls in October. We are exploring ideas for a November outing but there will be nothing planned for December due to the holidays. Please get back to me on whether you plan to come to the picnic on September 20th. If you have some ideas for a group activity, please let me know. We are very open to suggestions.

Maryann, Allison, John and Paula practicing long exposures at a carnival in Westbrook in July.

'THE ART OF SEEING DIFFERENTLY': A PHOTO WALK

In early August, Katherine Dickson led club members on a photo walk at Gillette Castle. But this was not an ordinary photo shoot. Katherine gave the participants different prompts like atmosphere, time and texture to use as the basis for their images. They were also encouraged to look for textures and backgrounds or story elements that could be added to their asset library and later used for developing creative ideas that could be used in future photo editing. Below are a few images from that morning.

'Atmosphere' by Rob Nardino

'Geologic Transition' by Mark Janke

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

Last April the club held it digital club competition. Members entered images in three categories: Color, Black and White and Creative. These are images that placed.

First place in the Color category was awarded to Dave Rathbun for this image titled 'Song Sparrow'.

'Beaver Moon Rising over Q Bridge was tied for 2nd place in the Color Category. It was taken by Frank Bartlett.

This photo taken by Peter Chow titled ‘Kirkjufell’ also tied for second place in the Color Category.

‘Baby Cardinals’ by Maryann Flick tied for third place in the Color Category.

This photo by Allison Maltese titled ‘Purple Water Lily’ also tied for 3rd place in the Color Category.

‘Spring Flower’ by John Gluszak also tied for third place in the Color Category.

In the Black and White Category, Peter Chow took 1st place with this image titled ‘Stormy Black Sand Beach.’

‘Short-Eared at Dusk’ by Frank Bartlett tied for 2nd place in the Black and White Category.

This photo by Janet Rathbun titled ‘Old Mill’ also tied for 2nd place in the Black & White Category.

John Gluszak ‘s ‘Night Vintage Train’ won 3rd place in the Black & White Category.

‘Water Lily Collage’ took 1st place in the Creative Category. It is by Allison Maltese.

Peter Chow won second place in the Creative Category for this image titled ‘Window of Tranquility’.

This photo titled ‘Smokin’ Devil’ by Maryann Flick tied for 3rd place in the Creative Category.

‘Water Lily Mandala’ also tied for 3rd place in the Creative Category. It is by Allison Maltese.

MARK BATTISTA PROGRAM ON "COMPOSITION: SHOOTING WITH INTENT"

You might remember Mark Battista from last fall when he did a program for us on "Still Life Photography". This fall Mark Battista returns to the Coastal Camera Club to do a program titled "Composition: Shooting with Intent". In this program, Mark will share his insight on composition to create images that tell a story, effectively communicate an idea and express an emotion. When it comes to visual composition, intent is a crucial element. It means making deliberate choices regarding what you include and exclude in your images and how to arrange them. Mark is a painter and fine art photographer. His years of training and working as a painter has influenced how he arranges elements in his photographic images. This program introduces ways of composing inspired by master painters of the past and show how to apply those skills to your photographic imagery. Topics in this program include:

- The elements of art
- Line
- Shape
- Color
- Value
- Principles of design
- Creating a focal point through contrast of tone, color or area of focus
- Point of view/ framing a subject
- Balance and visual weight vs. "Rules"

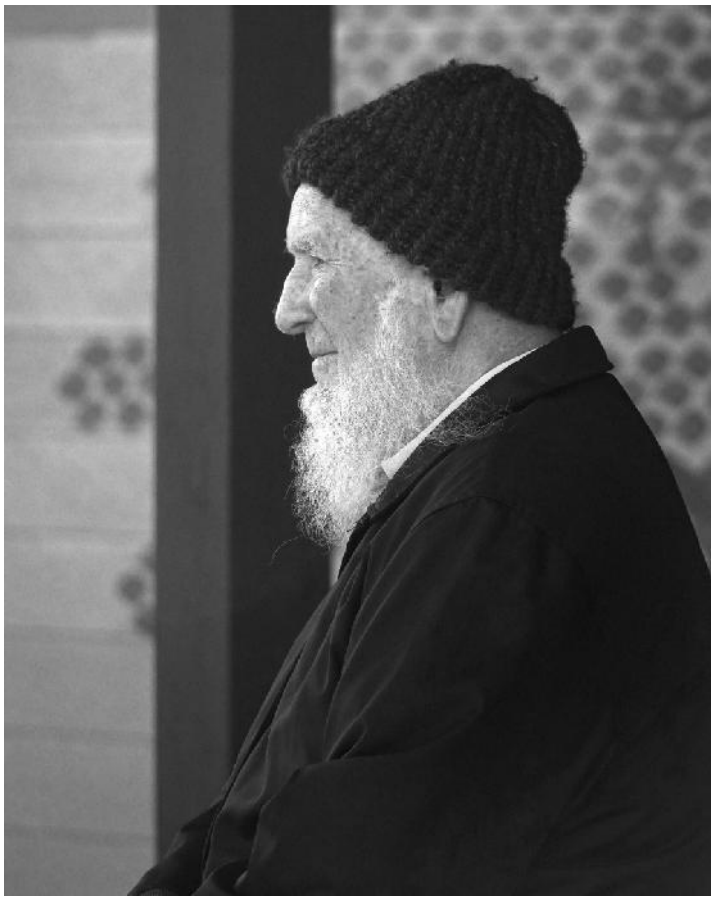
Mark is a painter and fine art photographer who specializes in portrait and still life photography. He is internationally recognized and has exhibited work nationally since graduating with a BFA from Paier College of Art. He is a juries member of the Salmagundi Club, a historic art club located in New York City. He offers one-on-one instruction in painting and photography as well as workshops throughout the New England area. Visit his website at www.markbattista.com. Mark has also authored a number of ebooks and has one on Composition available for purchase. If interested please contacting him at m16battista@comcast.com.

MADISON SENIOR CENTER SPRING SHOW FIRST PLACE WINNERS

Our Spring Show at the Madison Senior Center was very successful this year. On May 7th we held the opening which was open to the public and included some delicious hor d'oeuvres and desserts provided by our members. Eleven members participated, submitting a total of 55 images in seven categories; Nature touched by Man, People, Landscape/Seascape/Cityscape, Nature, Architecture, Creative and General. These are the first place winners in each category.

Congratulations to Carol Lowbeer who won first place and Best of Show with this image titled "Dramatic Clouds over Westbrook" entered in the Landscape/Seascape/Cityscape category.

John Gluszak's photo titled "Leopard" won first place in the Nature Hand of Man Category.



The “Amish Birdwatcher” taken by Allison Maltese took first place in the People category.

Peter Chow won first place in the Creative Category with this photo titled “The Swinger”.

First place in the Nature Category was awarded to this image of a “Merlin” by Sue Frechette.

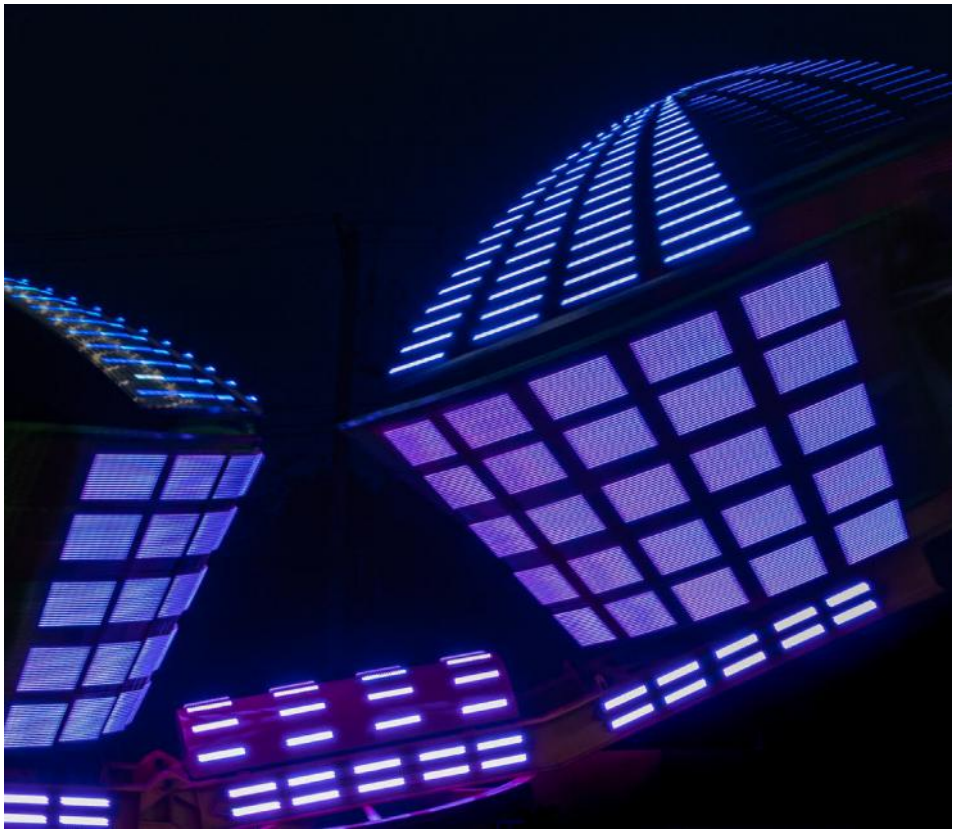
This image titled “Halo” by Peter Chow won first place in the General Category.

John Gluszak won first place in the Architecture Category with this photo titled “Avery Point Fly By”.

LONG EXPOSURE PHOTOS FROM THE JULY WESTBROOK CARNIVAL

In late July some of our members got together for the monthly activity that John organized. As they enjoyed the summer carnival in Westbrook, they practiced long exposure photography. Here are some of their images.

By Allison Maltese



By Maryann Flick

By John Gluszak

By Allison Maltese

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

September 5, 2025

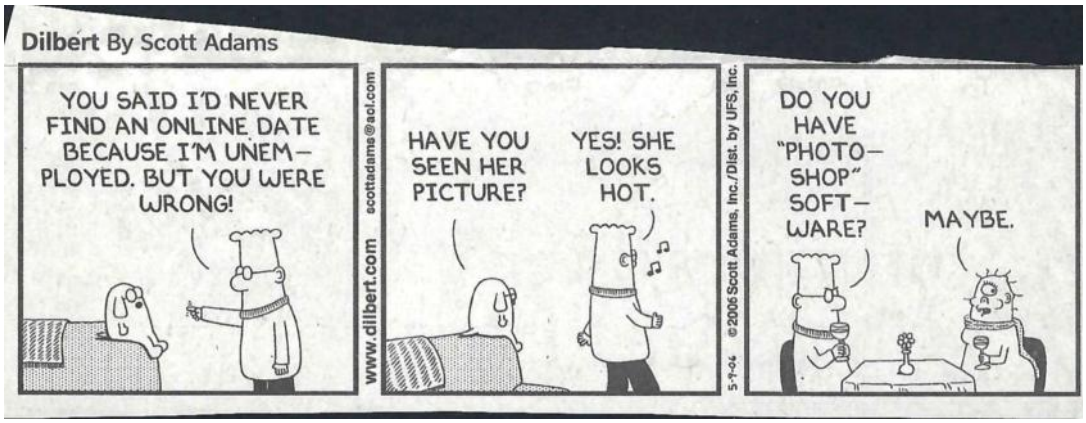
Dear Members,

Here we are beginning another club year. Last year was a good one! We had three excellent outside speakers; Mark Battista: Still Life Photography, Ron Wyatt: Practical Travel Photography, Bert Sirkin: Seeing and Visualization. Our own John Gluszak presented tips and techniques for Light Painting. We mounted three gorgeous exhibits; these seem to get better every year. And Wow! Getting a 1st and two 2nd place club awards in the NECCC Interclub Digital Competition is amazing for our small club. That's 3 out of 3 Class B categories! This was only possible because of your excellent skills and our dedicated directors/committee chairmen. Thank you to all my helpers. A few are owed special thanks. Sue Frechette is our Secretary AND our newsletter editor AND submits publicity to the media. Allison Maltese, our Exhibits Chair, arranges exhibit dates with the venues, stages the images by categories and content, prepares the show brochure, handles awarding ribbons and more. Janet Rathbun is our angel (Hospitality chair) who shops for, and brings our beverages and paper goods to meetings and organizes the list of who brings snacks. Dave Rathbun (Membership chair) not only keeps track of membership and attendance but also has been coordinating the reciprocal exchange of judges with other clubs. Cynthia Thibault is my wing-man as VP, always ready to help out and offer new ideas. Our Treasurer's (Anne Mele) accounting is impeccable. (Unfortunately she can't print money.) The entire board serves as the Program committee under chair Mark Janke. Rob Nardino keeps our website looking good. Archie Stone as past President continues to guide us and serves as a liaison to the Senior Center. Paula Chabot bravely tries to provide us some outside activities and now has John (Glu) Gluszak to push some ideas into reality. Also a big thank you to new member Katherine Dickson for taking on the role of judge coordinator. And special thanks go to Peter Chow who has been so generous with his assistance in collecting and organizing images for various presentations. Please consider helping out by joining a committee. Some of our chairmen need extra help. And we'd love to have more members do educational presentations! If you're interested in a particular topic, do some research on it and then share it with us. You have all year now until the 2026-2027 year. You don't have to be the expert.

I hope to see more participation this year. Share your work with us. Attend meetings. Go on the outings. Don't be afraid to ask questions. I'm sure one of us has an answer.

Let's hope we have another great year.

Maryann



Submitted by Paula Chabot