

Cobb Photographic Society



June 2024



May's Monthly Competition Theme: *Nature*

(Cover) Winner- Monochrome
Alpine Larches
Ben Moravitz

(Above) Winner- Color
Birds of a Feather
David Brown



Winner- Novice
Diamond Ring
Jimmy Gatt

- 4 Upcoming Activities and Events**
- 7 Notes From Around Our Club**
- 20 Member-2-Member Classifieds & Websites**
- 22 Articles, Photo News, Tips & Tricks, & Featured Website**

Upcoming Activities and Events

June 2024



Sat, 1 Jun, 6:45 AM (4:45 AM for Sewell Mill carpoolers). **Field Trip. Helen Balloon Festival and Anna Ruby Waterfall.** Join **Pat Fahey** for a field trip you have to do at least once. The balloon inflations start at 7 AM and are breath-taking. Additionally, a side trip to Anna Ruby Falls is optional for those up for a short hike to the local falls. RSVP/sign up [here](#).

Mon, 3 June, 7 PM. **Competition. Monthly Competition Evening,** Theme: **Smoke/Fog/Mist.** Join us in-person at [Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center](#) for our **Prints-Only** competition. Note there is **no concurrent Zoom session** during the three months we hold our prints-only competition evenings. After the meeting, we'll head out for social time. **All are welcome.**



Fri, 7 Jun, 10 PM (8:30 PM for Sewell Mill carpool). **Field Trip. Photographing the Milky Way and Creating Star Trails.** Our field trip leader, **Umit Yuksel**, invites all members to a night spent photographing star trails (10 PM) and the Milky Way (11 PM) at Brasstown Bald parking lot. Rain date is **Sat, 8 Jun**. Much more information in the RSVP/sign up [here](#). Photos by **Ümit Yüksel, Pat Fahey** and **Rick Olson**. **Club members only.**



Sat, 15 Jun, 11:30 AM. Social. Weekend Lunch at *Taqueria Tsunami* (right off Marietta Square), 70 South Park Square, Marietta, GA 30060. No sign up required. **All are welcome.**

Mon, 17 June, 7 PM. Continuing Education. Presentation Evening. Join our evening's Zoom-only educational presentation [here](#). **All are welcome.**

Tue, 18 Jun, 7 PM. New Members. CPS Welcome/New Member Zoom Orientation. **Dee Dee Bonesteel**, our club's Welcome Chair, welcomes our newest members to learn about our club resources and review the process of competing in our monthly competitions. Q&A time is included. The Zoom meeting URL will be emailed to all new members a couple of days before the Zoom session. **New members only**

Future Activities and Events

Mon, 1 Jul, 3 PM. Competition. Deadline for Digital Images, Theme: Roadways/Paths. Using the updated CPS entry form [here](#), email the form and photos to cpsdigital2023@gmail.com. **Club members only.**

Mon, 8 Jul, 7 PM. Competition. Monthly Competition Evening, Theme: Roadways/Paths. Join us in-person at [Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center](#) or via Zoom [here](#). After the meeting, we'll head out for social time. **All are welcome.**

Summer. Mentoring. Afternoon at either Marietta Square area or [Swift-Cantrell Park](#). RSVP/Sign up info in June. **Club members only.**

Summer. Learning Workshop/Field Trip. Light Painting. TBA. **Club members only.**

Sat, 24 Aug, 11 AM. Learning Workshop. Macro Photography 1:1 to 2:1. Please join us for a presentation and hands-on workshop to photograph tiny things life-size and larger. **Club members only.**

Summer/Fall. Learning Workshop. Capstone session: Light Painting. **Club members only.**

Sat, 9 Nov. Inter-Club Competition. North GA Camera Club Council (NG3C) Shootout at Barry College. More information soon. **Club members only.**

Fall. Learning Workshop. Quarterly Learning Workshop. **Club members only.**

October. Exhibit. Club members exhibit at Sewell Mill Library. **All are welcome.**

December. Social. Annual Social, Dinner, and 2024 Award Presentations. **Club members, invited guests, and family members.**

Notes from Around Our Club

Competition Evening- *Nature.*



Pavel Kuznetkova, our 2023 *End of Year Awards Ceremony* speaker and first-time judge for the club this month, presided over one of the largest number of entered competition photos. Pavel's comments stressed photographic techniques and reminded us not to forget the basics. Photo by **Rick Olson**.



Presentation Evening- *The Art of Seeing.*



Warren Simons, A first-time presenter, won us over with a presentation that reinforced the fact that our photographic journey is a life-long experience and that we, with our cameras, need to be ready for visual opportunities all around us. Said another way, "Pay attention [editor added: to the world around us]".

You can view Warren's video presentation [here](#). Photo by **Warren**.

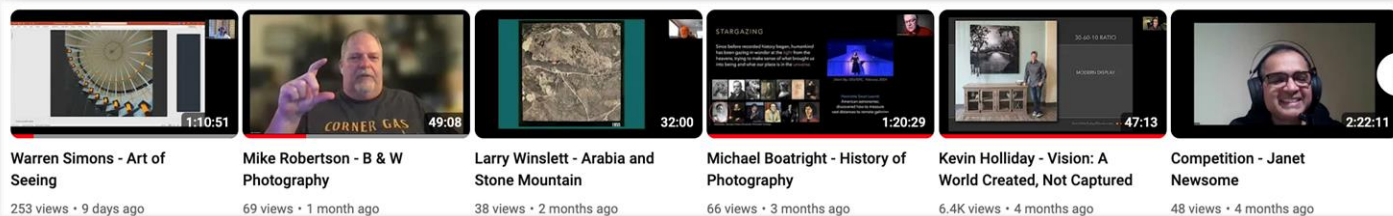


They Say It's Your...

Birthday!

- David Batley, 6 June
- Chris St. Aubin, 15 June
- Rick Olson, 19 June
- Pat Fahey, 22 June
- Mark Chandler, 26 June

Monthly CPS YouTube Presentations.



You can review our club's presentation videos from the last 3+ years [here](#).

2024 Competition Standings- Overall and Division.

Overall:	Paul Shimek
Novice Division:	Anand Saokar
Standard Division: Monochrome:	Phyllis Westland
Standard Division: Color:	Paul Shimek

Our Newest 2024 Member.

During May, **Fred Davis** joined our club. We hope to have Fred's biography in next month's magazine.

Upcoming CPS Weekend Lunch.



We're on for a weekend lunch at the Marietta location of *Taqueria Tsunami* on **Saturday, 15 June** at 11:30 AM. The restaurant, a block off from Marietta Square, is 70 South Park Square NE, Marietta, GA 30060.

As before, it's all about good food and conversation that invariably leads to photography.

CPS Website Portfolio Showcase: David Fine.

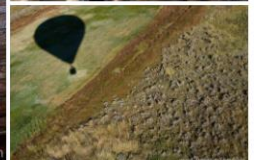
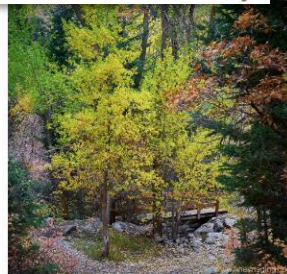
David Fine is a new member who is enthusiastic about all things photographic. His photos have a texture about them that I enjoy. His CPS portfolio page is [here](#).



A native of Atlanta, I began developing my vision and love of photography at age 12! I spent countless hours learning to create images with my Pentax K1000 and favorite film (at the time) Tri-X from Kodak. Of course that led to long hours in the darkroom, developing my results, making mistakes, and learning to see in a new way.

Graduating from The University of Georgia and then Brooks Institute of Photography, I began Fine Imaging in 1992 working as a Commercial Photographer completing assignments for advertising, marketing, and fine art collections nationwide.

Today, my style reflects a delicate balance of creative enthusiasm and technical expertise interpreting moments of time through nature in dramatic landscapes with a focus on the impact of time often through the lens of things that rust and splinter. While many of my images were recorded with medium and large format film, today my tool of choice is digital cameras and lenses from Sony.



Contact Mark Chandler to **add your own portfolio page** at mchan18078@aol.com.

It's super easy: Your photo +10-20 photos + a bio is all it takes; Mark does all the layout work for you!

CPS 2024 Monthly Competition Schedule.

Monday Deadline for Digital Submission	Monday Competition Evening	Competition Theme
2024		
January 1	January 8 **	General – Vintage (no theme or 2-year limit)
January 29	February 5	People
February 26	March 4	Negative Space Prints-only
March 25	April 1	Symmetry
April 29	May 6	Nature
May 27	June 3	Smoke / Fog / Mist Prints-only
July 1	July 8 *	Roadways / Paths
July 29	August 5	Frame within a Frame
September 2	September 9 *	Backlight Prints-only
September 30	October 7	Solitude
October 28	November 4	High Speed
November 25	Xmas Party	Winning 2024 photos compete for a 1 st place

* and ** July and September Competition evenings and image submission dates are pushed back a week due to the 4th of July and Labor Day holidays and for 2024, our January meeting date is pushed back one week as well.

Prints-only competition evenings are in-person only; no simultaneous Zoom session.

Thanks To Our Event Photographers.

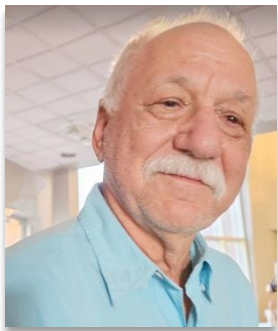


Hats off to club members **Chandler Bridges, Mark Chandler,** and others for providing photos of our Spring Exhibit's opening night reception at *The Art Place* and our afternoon-long Spring Social and three presentations/learning workshops at *Switzer Library*.

BTW, **Chandler Bridges** only photographs with his smartphone!

Exhibit: Reception Evening (below and next page).





2024 Member Updates to Club Information and Events/Workshops

We still have some members who haven't updated their club information for 2024.

The online form updates your personal contact information and your desired field trip and club workshops. Also updated is your camera make/model, overall skill level (self-assessment), and if you desire assistance from other experienced members.

Finally, there's a checkbox at the end that absolves the club of any responsibility for injuries while on field trips, socials, or learning workshops.

Early June, those members with no or outdated membership information will receive an email reminder with the link to update the form. It'll take no more than 10 minutes to update so the club leadership can better plan for field trips and learning workshops desired by our members and keep our club's administrative records up to date.

What areas would you like to improve your photo and photo editing skills. Also included about halfway down are areas (beginning w Photoshop Elements and to the bottom) we've added to see if there's interest to "start up" these 2024 initiatives.

- On/Off camera flash
- Camera techniques: Composition, lighting, motion blur, selective focus, stacked focus, ...
- Macro photography
- Astro photography
- Studio work: Fine art, portrait, food, and/or product photography
- Light wand/light painting (low-light/night photography). Visit Eric Pare's website for more information. Th...

Spring 2024 People's Choice Award



CJ Andretta, a venerable member of the club who is always ready to lend a "photographic hand" to club members, wins the *People's Choice Award* with *Savoy Auto*.

Bright colors, intricate detail, and a super-interesting subject went far with the public and members who voted during our month-long May exhibit.



Headshots Learning Workshop at Our Spring Social.

A special thanks to **Melissa Moody**, **Ralph Burr**, and **Andreas Wierschen** for photographing and/or assisting with the posing during our workshop. Melissa and Andreas also gave their editing touches to several of the photos below (I think I'm the only monochrome photo so I'd be easier to identify on milk cartons). Thanks to **Patrick Olmstead** and **Margaret Waage** for the fun photos!



Standard- Monochrome Competition Winners



Second Place
Goose from Above
Krissy Finch



Third Place
Bookends
Krissy Finch



Honorable Mention
Abandoned Cub
Jeff Whittingham



Honorable Mention
Sun Magnet
Pat Fahey

Standard- Color Competition Winners



Second Place
2nd Ritual of Spring
Pat Fahey



Third Place
The Chase
Patrick Olmstead



Honorable Mention
Lady Bug
Mark Chandler



Honorable Mention
Red Rocks Dominica
Paul Shimek

Novice Competition Winners



Second Place
After The Rain
Lori Mitchum



Third Place
Forest Floor
Joy Rogers



Honorable Mention
Dracula Rising
Anand Saokar

Honorable Mention
Join Me
Anand Saokar



Member-2-Member's Classifieds and Websites

Email faheyatlanta@gmail.com if you have photographic items for sale or events that you or your business would like to advertise in our next magazine. Advertising your business website is OK as well.

Local Courses with Club Member, David Batley.



"Creative Photography in the Garden" With David Batley- Photo workshop at Smith-Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw, **Saturday, June 25th, from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.** Cost is \$35.

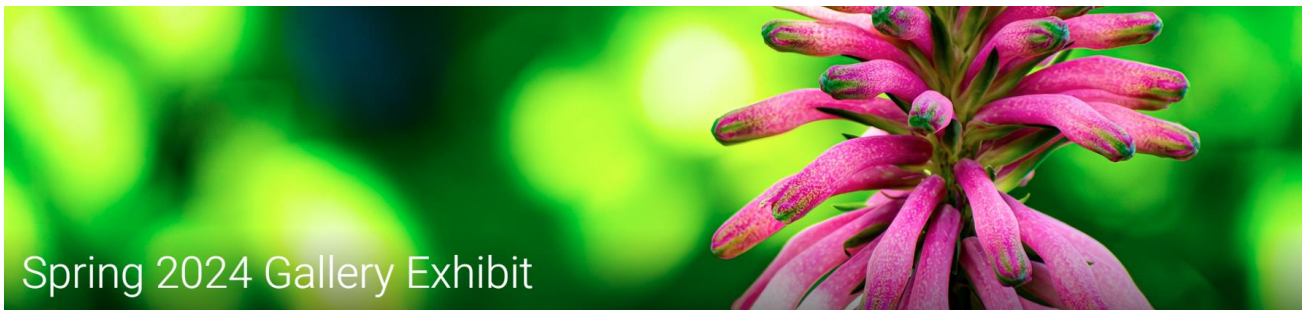
Note: This is the workshop postponed from May 25th.

Emphasis will be on learning basic operation of your digital camera and using techniques to enhance your experience and have fun. Classroom instruction plus opportunities to explore the gardens and enjoy using your camera to capture a variety of subjects.

All photographers are welcome. Register at Smith-Gilbert Gardens, 770-919-0248.

Questions? Call David at 404-314-6359.

One Last Look at Our Club Members' Spring 2024 Exhibits.

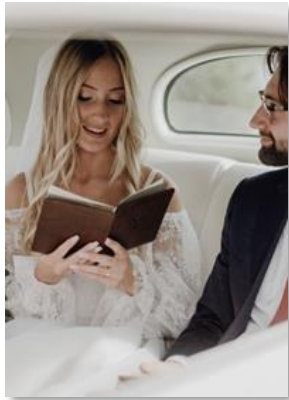


The club's SmugMug website is a compilation of photos folks took at the evening's reception as well as pre-validation photos for the exhibit. The photos are [here](#).

Editor: It's a small world, after all. This morning, at the Helen Balloon Festival, I casually struck up a conversation with a lady while the balloon we were photographing was being inflated. She lived in the Roswell area.

During our conversation, she noticed the CPS logo on my golf shirt and said, "I saw a wonderful exhibit at *The Art Place* last week. Really nice photographs". It was with great pride I let her know the photos were from our photo club.

Judge's Featured Website: Pavel Kuznetkova.



Pavel's company specializes in high-end weddings and is branded as *Pavel VK*. View Pavel's website portfolios and bio [here](#). Great work. Photos are his work.

Presenter's Featured Website: Warren Simons.



Says **Warren**: "Photographs can come from a place where we let go of our expectations and preconceived ideas, and instead open to curious exploration, letting the visual surprises in the everyday world find us."

[Editor: "Warren has a gift to find visually exciting photos everywhere."]

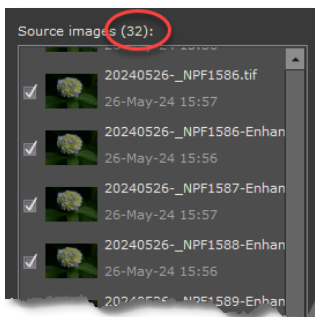
View Warren's website [here](#). Galleries and quote are from his website.

Articles, Photo News, Tips & Tricks, & Featured Website.

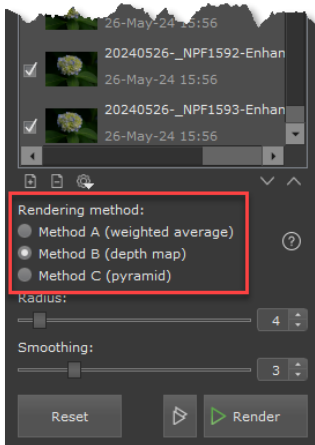
Focus Stacking with *Helicon Focus*.

The focus stacking process you use in *Photoshop* is more than adequate to capture multiple images “stacked” into a separate image. Two issues with *Photoshop* are the difficulty to correct small areas that were not correctly stacked and the time required to stack an image. Not showstopper issues but they may slow down your workflow.

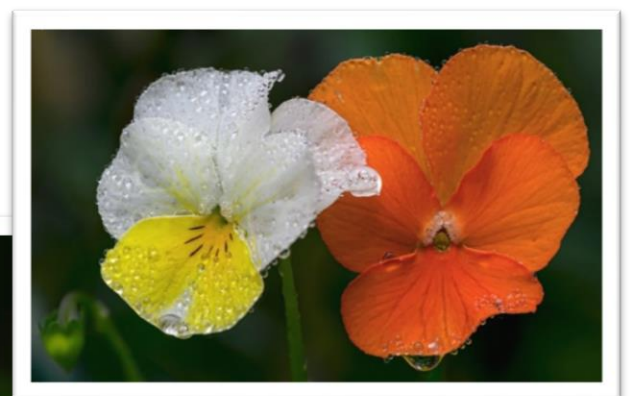
Paid programs, such as *Helicon Focus*, overcome these two issues. *Helicon Focus* is a speed demon to create the final image from the imported images. Downside: you either pay for an annual subscription or buy a lifetime subscription. If focus stacking is a task you do more than occasionally, consider *Helicon Focus* or other similar programs. Most of the focus stacking programs allow a free 30 day trial use; more info can be found on the *Helicon Focus* website [here](#) or the Zerene website [here](#).



If nothing else, it's fun and informative (at least the first couple of times) to watch how the program goes first through the image stack (probably for alignment as well as resizing) and then goes through again, in real-time, to display the edges of sharpness found in each layer.



You can view two, ~10 second videos [here](#) and [here](#). BTW, I run *Helicon Focus* first and then edit the created *Helicon Focus* .tif file in *Lightroom* or *Photoshop*. The only exception is if the photos are very ISO-noisy; I'll run *Lightroom's Enhance > Denoise* first and then run *Lightroom's* newly created .dng files through *Helicon Focus*) and get a newly created .tif file.



Competition Question and Answer.

I'm pleased to see how our members are conscientiously working through what's OK and not OK in our competition photos.

Laura Prescott, CPS Competition Chair, received the following question from a member this month:

"The image I would like to enter was taken in the fall of 2023 - it is a film image or rather three film images. I made the image using the Orten Technique using three exposures (-2, Normal, +2) which I scanned to create digital images in Photoshop and layered them. I then used the gaussian blur function in Photoshop on one layer and adjusted it to create a soft effect. With all the work is this still considered an acceptable image - or not?"

Laura noted that the member's final work:

- ✓ Met the two-year time requirement
- ✓ Every aspect of the final image was taken by the member.

Here is a quote from our long-standing website competition guidelines [here](#):

"2.c. Entries. Members are encouraged to submit new images for each competition.

All images used for competition must be taken within two years (24 months) of the competition date.

Every aspect of the image must be taken by the member submitting the image with a camera / photo device.

Images that have won a First, Second, Third, or Honorable Mention (HM) place in regular competitions are **not** eligible for reentry in any form, except for Second Chance competition (if held)."

Featured Website: 2024 World Nature Photography Awards

This month's featured website is a joy to highlight. The photography is excellent and an inspiration to all.

The 2024 World Nature Photography Awards website is [here](#).

Photographer credits under the photos and on the website.



Alex Brackx | Click to purchase as wall art in our store



© Michael Stavroskakis



©Partha Roy | Click to purchase as wall art in our store

Did you enjoy our club's monthly magazine?

Our club is a great community to expand your photo skills and make new friendships with other photographers.

Come join us!



<http://www.cobbphotosociety.com/membership>

50 YEARS
1974 - 2024

CPS editors: Pat Fahey and Margaret Waage