

Cobb Photographic Society



February 2025



General (Open) Competition

(Cover) Winner- Monochrome

Natalie Birnbaum

Watching You

(Above) Winner- Color

Phyllis Westland

Curiosities



- 4 Upcoming Activities and Events**
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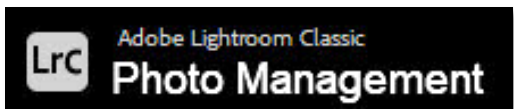
Upcoming Activities and Events

February 2025



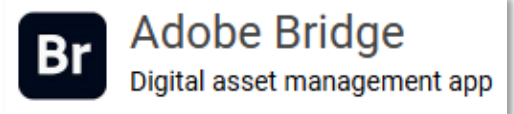
Month of February. Photo Challenge: *Celebration*. Marc Moskowitz, our Photo Challenge moderator, set up a club FB album for you to post your photos [here](#). This is a **fun event for all**. Photos by Larry Landrie, Marc Moskowitz, and Lori Mitchum. **All are welcome to submit photographs.**

Mon, 3 Feb, 7 PM. Competition. *The Ordinary*. Come and join us at Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center, 2051 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta or via Zoom [here](#). After the meeting, we'll head out for social time. **All are welcome.**



Wed, 5 Feb, 7 PM. Learning Workshop. *Lightroom Classic (LrC) Basics- Photo/File Management (1 of 4 sessions)*. Join Pat Fahey, over Zoom, as we

explore, in the first session, how LrC manages photos and tips to organize your photos for easier searches. RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **Club members only.**



Wed, 6 Feb, 7 PM. Learning Workshop. *Bridge Basics (1 of 1 session)*. Join Ümit Yüksel, over Zoom, as we explore the basics of Adobe's *Bridge*. RSVP/Sign [here](#). **Club members only.**

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

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



Sat, 22 Feb, (8 AM from Sewell Mill Library), 10 AM. Field Trip. Butterflies and Raptors. Field Trip Chair, **Rick Olson**, invites you to Callaway Gardens where flights of fancy await you in the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center, where typically 1,000 or more butterflies flutter freely about in one of North America's largest tropical butterfly conservatories. In the early afternoon, there is a *Birds of Prey Experience* as well. Photos by **Rick** and Callaway Gardens website. RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **All are welcome.**



*New Member
"Chat and Plan"*

Sat, 22 Feb, 7 PM. New Members. "Chat and Plan" over Zoom. New members will meet other new members and several other experienced club members to discuss their photography goals and plan how to get the best out of their club membership. **Ronda Clark**, Membership Chair, will directly contact new members via email. All are welcome; if you'd like to join as well, you can email Ronda [here](#). **New members and other club members are welcome.**

Mon, 24 Feb, 3 PM. **Competition.** **Deadline for Digital Images, Theme: *Doors/Windows*.** Using the updated CPS entry form [here](#), email the entry form and photos to cpsdigital2023@gmail.com for the next competition. **Please note:** our March competition is **Prints-Only**. **Club members only.**

Future Activities and Events

Sat, 1 Mar, 11:30 AM. **Social.** **CPS Weekend Lunch.**



New! Ready for a weekend lunch at the Marietta location of Taqueria Tsunami? The restaurant, a block off from Marietta Square, is 70 South Park Square NE, Marietta, GA 30060. RSVP/Sign up soon.

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

Mon, 3 Mar, 7 PM. **Competition.** **Theme: *Doors/Windows*.** Come and join us at Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center, 2051 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta. **Please note:** our March competition is **Prints-Only** and there is no Zoom access this evening. After the meeting, we'll head out for social time. **All are welcome.**

Wed, 5 Mar, 7 PM. **Learning Workshop.** ***Lightroom Classic (LrC) Basics- Photo/File Management (2 of 4 sessions)*.** RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **Club members only.**

Thu, 6 Mar, 7 PM. **Learning Workshop.** ***Adobe Camera Raw (1 of 2 sessions)*.** RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **Club members only.**

Sat, 15 Mar. **Field Trip.** ***Stone Mountain- Spring Flowers*** with Larry Winslett. RSVP/Sign up in early February.

Sat, 29 Mar. **Social Outreach.** ***Kicking Back Against Parkinson's*.** RSVP/Sign up in early February. **All are welcome.**

Wed, 9 Apr, 7 PM. **Learning Workshop.** ***Lightroom Classic (LrC) Basics- Basic Editing (3 of 4 sessions)*.** RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **Club members only.**

Thu, 10 Apr, 7 PM. **Learning Workshop.** ***Adobe Camera Raw (2 of 2 sessions)*.** RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **Club members only.**

Thu-Sun, 24-27 Apr. **Extended Field Trip.** ***Florida Birding and Wildlife Trip*.** **Note:** Thursday and Sunday are largely days of travel. RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **Club members only.**

Wed, 7 May, 7 PM. **Learning Workshop.** ***Lightroom Classic (LrC) Basics- Intermediate Editing (4 of 4 sessions)*.** RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **Club members only.**

Thu, 8 May, 7 PM. **Learning Workshop.** ***Introduction to Photoshop (1 of 1 session)*.** RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **Club members only.**

Notes from Around Our Club

Competition Evening- *General Theme.*



Larry Winslett is another long-time contributor to our club- not only serving as a presenter during our third Monday's Continuing Education evenings but also as a past judge. This month, Larry had the responsibility of judging the largest number of submissions for our club...ever. Whew.



Presentation Evening- **Most Important Elements Of Composition.**



John Mariana, presented a thoughtful presentation to the club on the finer aspects of making your photograph even more impactful by following (and breaking) the rules of compositional elements.



They Say It's Your...

Birthday!

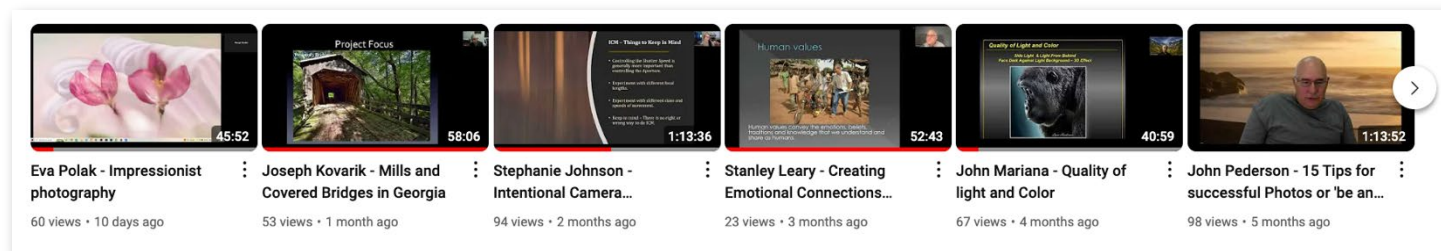
- 1 Feb- **Mike Gutting**
- 10 Feb- **Michael Birnbaum**
- 11 Feb- **Jeff Westland**
- 18 Feb- **Bruce Lepard**
- 24 Feb- **Dee Dee Bonesteel**
- 25 Feb- **Karen Kaderlik**

2025 Competition Standings- Overall and Division.

In January, we clear the totals and begin fresh for 2025. The 2025 end of year winners are determined by a running point total, January through November, for each of our three divisions. Points are awarded for each winning 2025 photo based on the award level (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention). The highest points= *Photographer of the Year* in the *Novice; Standard: Color*, and *Standard: Monochrome*. And the one award to rule them all (Standard: Color + Monochrome), *Overall Photographer of the Year*.

Overall:	Phyllis Westland
Novice Division:	Lori Mitchum
Standard Division: Monochrome:	Natalie Birnbaum
Standard Division: Color:	Judy Ghormley

Monthly CPS YouTube Presentations.



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

2025 Dues Are... Due.



Please pay your 2025 \$40 dues.

A couple of options are:



- PayPal link: You can click [here](#) (go to the bottom of the club's web page for the **Pay with PayPal** button).
- Pay by cash or check in-person at our competition meeting or any field trip, learning workshop, or social event. You can mail your check directly to our Treasurer, **Rob Herman** at: Cobb Photographic Society, c/o Rob Herman, CPS Treasurer 1020 Millridge Lane SE Marietta, GA 30067-5472.

2025 Monthly Photo Challenge Schedule.

This is a **FUN month-long challenge** for all members to participate and post their photos to a specific club FB album. No prizes and no awards; just your personal participation in a fun environment! If you have questions, contact Marc [here](#).

Monthly Photo Challenge (all month)	Photo Challenge Theme
January	Patterns all around us
February	Celebration
March	Shoes
April	Puts a smile on my face
May	It's alive!
June	Colors of spring
July	Feels like I'm home
August	America the beautiful
September	Nighttime lights
October	I found it on a walk
November	Past their prime
December	(no challenge; enjoy the holidays)

CPS 2025 Monthly Competition Themes Schedule.

Monday Deadline for Digital Submission	Monday Competition Evening	Competition Theme
2025		
December 30	January 6 *	General – Vintage (no theme or 2-year limit)
January 27	February 3	The Ordinary
February 24	March 3	Door(s) / Window(s) Prints-only
March 31	April 7	Georgia On My Mind (Photos taken in GA)
April 28	May 5	Trees
May 26	June 2	Wet Prints-only
July 7	July 14 **	Seasons
July 28	August 4	Motorcycle(s) / Bicycle(s) / Tricycle(s)
September 1	September 8 **	Shadows Prints-only
September 29	October 6	Architecture
October 27	November 3	Something Broken
November 17	(closed) ***	Winning 2025 photos compete for a wild card 1 st place in each of the three divisions. ***
None	Xmas Party	End of Year Awards Ceremony

Unsure of what a theme means/looks like? Our Competition Chair, Laura Prescott, developed a document with definitions/pictures to help you get going. View the document [here](#).

* January's Competition is wide open! No limit on the theme (family-friendly) or date the photograph was taken. **Note:** No AI is allowed in the photo; it must be *all your work*.

** July and September Competition evenings are always pushed back a week due to the 4th of July and Labor Day holidays.

*** The month of November is not open for a general competition. Club members who placed 2nd through Honorable Mention compete for a wild-card first place in the *Best of the Year* competition in our Novice, Standard: Color, and Standard: Monochrome divisions. Winners are announced at our December Christmas party.

Prints-only - Three themes a year are set aside for **Prints-only** monthly competitions. There is no Zoom session during the three Prints-only competitions; we encourage you to come to Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center and view our members' print craftsmanship.

Standard- Color Competition Winners



Second Place
River Blues
Judy Ghormley



Honorable Mention
Mission Espada
Ben Moravitz



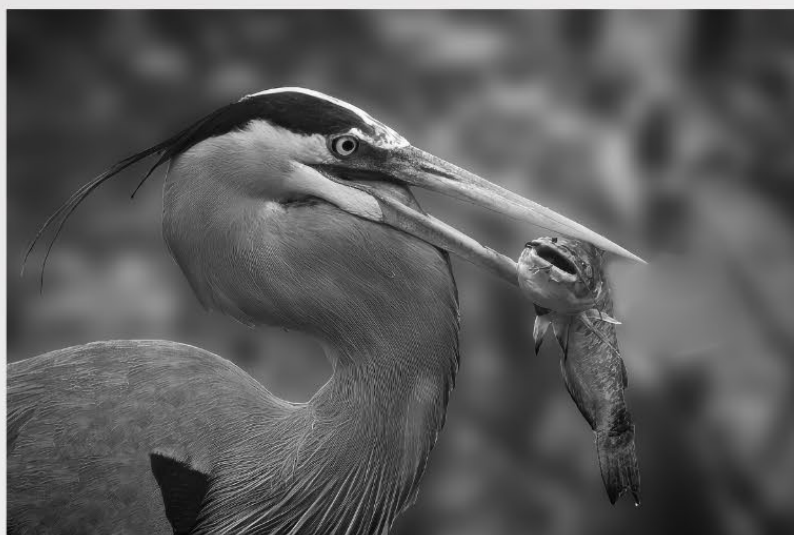
Third Place
Autumn Reflections
Judy Ghormley



Honorable Mention
Polar Bear Reflection
eff Whittingham

Standard- Monochrome Competition Winners

Second Place
Window Dressing
Phyllis Westland

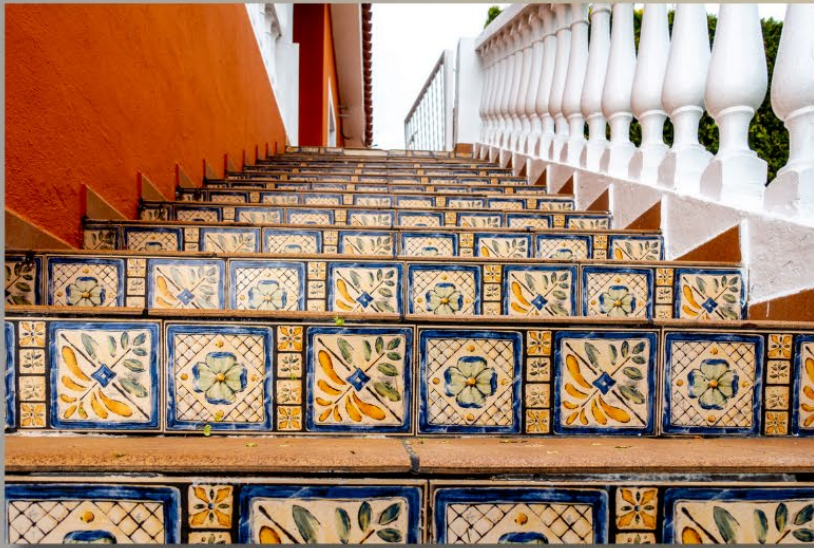


Third Place
Help Me
Michael Birnbaum

Honorable Mention
Smokin Riff
Patrick Fahey



Novice Competition Winners



Second Place
Spanish Steps
Joy Rogers

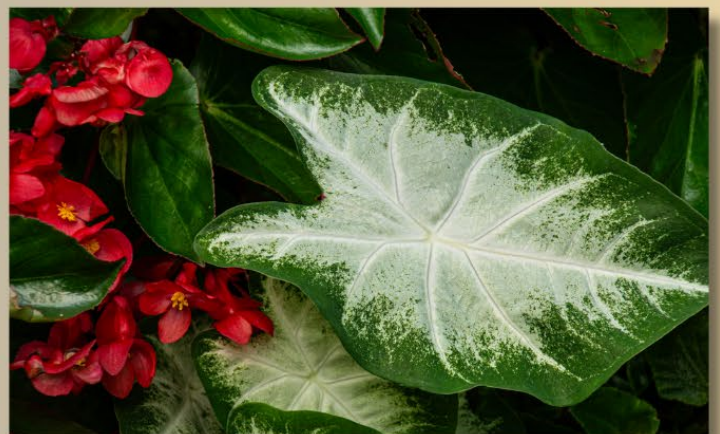


Honorable Mention
Dance With Me
Rob Herman



Third Place
Fun with Dad
Maura Davies

Honorable Mention
Color
Rob Herman



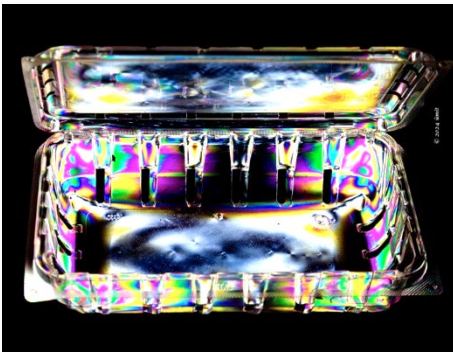
Field Trip: Birding At Wheeler National Refuge.



Headed up by **Ümit Yüksel** with the able assist of field trip chair **Rick Olson**, a group of CPS and NGPC members headed over to Decatur, AL (yes, Alabama) to view tens of thousands of sandhill cranes, pelicans, Kingfishers, heron, and egret. It was an experience everyone should experience at least once.

While some of us are still processing images from the field trip, Ümit and Rick have albums for your viewing: Ümit's album is [here](#) and Rick's album is [here](#). More to come next month. Above photos by **Rick** and **Ümit**.

Learning Workshop: *Photographing Stress.*



Ümit Yüksel, Learning Workshop Chair, kicked off our first workshop of 2025 on Zoom:

“to learn how to photograph the hidden stress in common, everyday glass and polymer objects.”

Did you know that your LCD monitor is a polarized light source and the LCD monitor makes a great backlight source to view certain manufactured plastics and glass? Well, I didn't know that and was amazed that with the addition of a polarizing filter, the bright colors and mesmerizing patterns that lit up the screen. What a unique experience.

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.

Free Nikon DSLR Wireless Remote Shutter



Club member, **Pat Fahey**, offers a wireless shutter release that works with **Nikon DSLR** cameras that have a 10-pin connector. The make and model is RFN-4s Wireless Remote Shutter Release for Nikon DSLR with MC30 Type Connection (Nikon D200, D300, D300s, D500, D700, D800, D800E, D810, D1, D2, D3, D3x, D3s, D4, D5) - Transmitter and Receiver Set.

The transmitter/receiver set will be available at the 3 Feb Competition evening at Sewell Mill Library. First-come, first-served.

Private Tutoring with Club Member, David Batley.



David Batley, a recognized club member and experienced instructor, is available with his popular "What Button Do I Push Now?" with private tutoring.

Don't be frustrated. Learn the most important stuff about your camera. Sessions are usually about 2 or 2 and 1/2 hours and the fee is \$99.

Contact David at 4043146359 or by email: dbphotodesign@comcast.net.

Stay Tuned for Upcoming Courses with Mark Chandler.



Another experienced instructor who is a long-time club member and our Social Media Chair, **Mark Chandler**, will have classes in the near future. Check back here next month for Mark's upcoming classes.

Judge's Featured Website: Larry Winslett.

Larry is a well-known nature photographer in the Atlanta area and is an honored photographer at Stone Mountain Park.



Larry Winslett's website says, "Larry is an award-winning nature photographer who has chronicled the natural world in many parts of the United States and Canada.



His photographs have been featured in a variety of publications, such as *Sierra*, *Wilderness*, and *Wild Mountain Times*.

His fine art prints are also displayed in such diverse locations as Stanford University and Cox Communications, and his work has been the focus of major exhibits at Stone Mountain's Memorial Hall.

Take the time to visit Larry's website [here](#). Photos are Larry's work.

Presenter's Featured Website: John Mariana

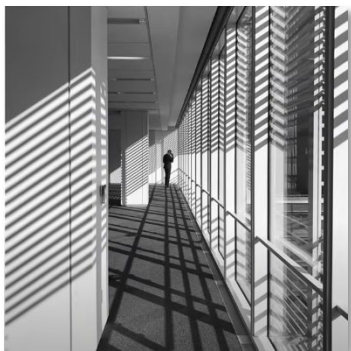


John is a noted photographer and built quite a reputation among local and national photographers. To say John honors his craft but sees his images crafted at a different level is a compliment. John and his eye-catching interpretations make us aware that all the arts can skip across man-made boundaries for those willing to look beyond.

Says John's bio, "As a *Photographic Artist*, I depict the world as first seen within my mind. My heart provides the emotional content. Color, light, shadows and special relationships are combined to bring you into my world. My specialty is seeing and presenting the world in my style, in my color palette."

View John's portfolio [here](#). Photos are John's.

Articles, Photo News, Tips & Tricks, & Featured Website Smartphones... The Camera You Always Have With You.



The reason I sold my iPhone 7 was that after almost six years of not-quite-good-enough photos, I wanted a smartphone camera that reasonably met my need for a backup camera when I didn't have my digital camera.

About three years ago, Android and iPhone rolled out smartphones cameras that were pretty darn good.

The New York Times (NYT) Director of Photography, Kathy Ryan, took on a photo project capturing the play of light in her NYT office building. **Jamie Windsor** included some of Kathy's wonderful abstract shots [here](#) (4:28 into the video). Jamie has some good tips and smartphone philosophy (really) in the full video, *13 Smartphone Photography Tips and Tricks* [here](#).



To close the article, I'd like to show you **Dee Dee Bonesteel's** photo, *Angry Sky Awaits*.

Dee Dee took this photo while on vacation... with her smartphone. It placed first in our November 2024 club competition's Color category.

"The best camera is the one you have with you."

John Mariana's 2025 Smoky Mountain Workshop.

John Mariana Photography
Photography Workshops
"Photograph that which stirs your heart and excites your mind."

THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN SPRING
Workshop with four nights' accommodations and five days photography
Monday, April 21 through Friday, April 25, 2025

Join me in one of the beautiful National Parks. I've taught many workshops here and have visited the best photographic areas many times. There is an abundance of water and fresh spring color. The images in this flyer are from several years. You can see that spring is perfect for photography.

THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS

You will receive one-on-one instructions as we photograph. We will photograph in the Roaring Fork area with the many farmsteads, old mill and waterfalls. In Cades Cove we will photograph the old churches, the buildings in the village and some of the barns and upper lofts. At Elkmont there are the abandoned houses that are now falling apart. Tremont there are numerous river images and striking waterfalls.

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

- Roaring Fork Loop
 - Water Falls, River Runs
 - Cabins – exteriors and interiors
- Cades Cove
- Elkmont abandoned structures
- Little Greenbrier Abandoned School
- Tremont – water falls and more
- Evening and afternoon working sessions - Photoshop
- Image Reviews and critiques

John Mariana, a long-time supporter of CPS, is again offering his annual Smoky Mountain workshop, "The Smoky Mountain Spring." The workshop covers locations throughout the area that are photographically interesting and you benefit from John's expert assistance.

The workshop runs from **Mon, 21 Apr through Fri, 25 Apr**. John confirmed he has several seats open If interested, contact John by email: jmarianaphotography@gmail.com.

Update: Continuing Improvement of Adobe/Topaz Denoise Products



Adobe Denoise ~50%

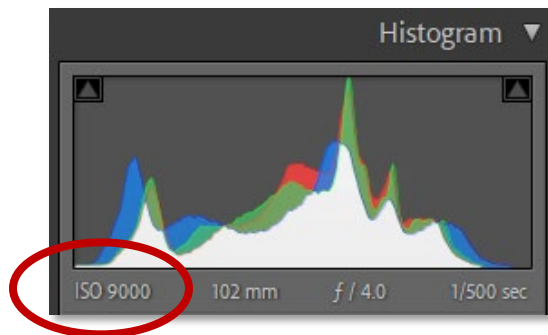


Original



Topaz AI ~50

Both Adobe Lightroom Classic/Adobe Raw and Topaz AI continue to improve their denoise products that allow photographers to consider photographing at a higher ISO while reducing noise and maintaining image quality.



In the above photos, the original image (middle) handled the ISO 9000 well and both software products reduced the noise with minimal impact on the image quality (hair detail, eye detail, no color shift).

While I personally like the Adobe denoise results slightly better, Topaz AI has a couple more options to further fine-tune the denoise.

Adobe Denoise	Included with Adobe subscriptions including the Lightroom and Photoshop Photography subscription
Topaz AI Denoise	Denoises most graphic file formats (Adobe only denoises raw files)

Overall, Adobe and Topaz are similar in providing excellent denoise results that were very hard to replicate two-three years ago.

PhotoPills Updates Online Astrophotography Articles.



MILKY WAY PHOTOGRAPHY: THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE (2025)

What if I told you that you're more than capable of imagining, planning and shooting Milky Way pictures that will put people into what I call a sharing trance? Would you believe it? Discover how to do it, step by step.



METEOR SHOWERS 2025: THE DEFINITIVE PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDE

All you need to photograph a Meteor Shower: 2025 calendar, inspiring ideas, how to plan it with PhotoPills, all the gear, and how to photograph it, step by step.

Over the years, our club has sponsored at least one astro field trip and/or learning workshop every year to learn about and capture the world above us. We love the night sky, thanks in large part to **Ümit Yüksel**, our club's astro guide and Learning Workshop Chair.

PhotoPills has an exhaustive list of free articles of how to get the best out of your astrophotography efforts. You can access and download the updated articles [here](#).

Free Chapter from *The Photography Tutorial* eBook.



You can download a free chapter, *The Photography Tricks* from the authors selling the eBook, *The Photography Tutorial*.

Reviewing the free chapter, I found it to be well-written and covers fun projects you can do on your own or with others. The sample chapter is 60+ pages and includes the photography (and editing actions for some of the projects) step-by-step actions.

Register for their periodic photograph tips via email and you will receive an email giving you the links to the free chapter and another download. The registration link is [here](#).

If, after looking at the chapter, you can buy the eBook [here](#), A nice touch: there's a 90-day money back guarantee.



SILHOUETTE PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

Wednesday, January 29th, 2025

As a learning bonus, their website has many other interesting articles and tips, such as silhouette photography (image above) to improve your photography at [PictureCorrect.com](#).

Upcoming *Photoshop Creativity Virtual Summit*.



Dave Cross and a group of well-known Photoshop instructors are offering *Photoshop Creativity Virtual Summit 2025* that spans four days.

What skill levels should attend? The website FAQs state “*There will be classes aimed at all levels of experience, from beginners to experienced users. Before the summit begins, we will offer a free mini-course for beginners to help prepare for the summit.*”

Why do we keep advertising these annual summits? First, you will learn from some of the best Photoshop instructors. Second, **Dave offers a limited-time opportunity to take the four day training for free.** The stipulation is that at the end of each of the four day’s sessions, you have the opportunity, for 48 hours, to access that day’s sessions. You can sign up [here](#).

Of course, you can purchase the VIP (early bird) pass [here](#). With the VIP purchase you have access to all the training with no date restrictions.

Featured Website: 2024 PhotoPills Astro Photography.



Want to see some astounding astro photography? Over 8871 photos were submitted to PhotoPills during 2024; these images are the “PhotoPillers of the Day” and 2024 category winners. Look no further than this digital book of ~450 nighttime images shot from around the world.

View and download the photo album pdf [here](#).

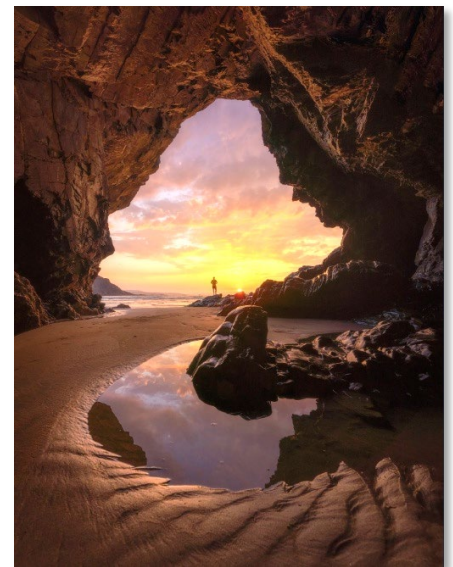
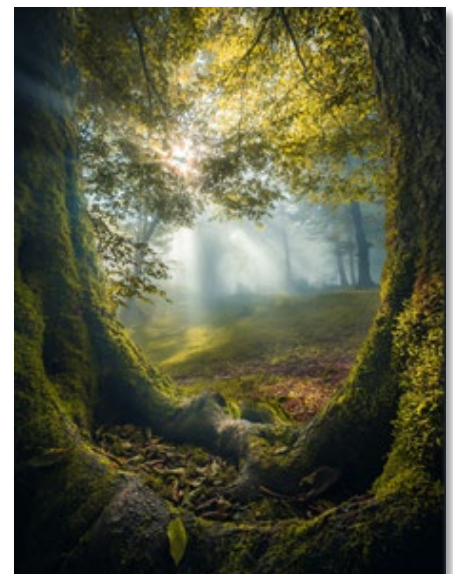


Photo credits (top)
Brad Perry, *Fredericton, NB, Canada*
Hugo Martins, *Volcan De Fuego*
Diego Manrique, *The Secret Cave*

Photo credits (bottom)
Jose Fernandez, *Zumaia Lighthouse*
Brad Perry, *2024 Eclipse*
Armin Ramezanzad, *Sun Pursuit*



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 - 2025

CPS editors: Pat Fahey and Margaret Waage