

Cobb Photographic Society



June 2025



Competition Theme: *Trees*

(Cover) Winner- Monochrome

Three Trees

Michael Birnbaum

(Above) Winner- Color

Once a Tree

Marc Moskowitz



Winner- Novice
Interior Design
Maura Davies

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Upcoming Activities and Events

June 2025



All Month. Photo Challenge: *Colors of Spring*. 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 **Meryl Cook**, **Charlie Stannard**, and **Karen Kaderlik**- uploaded so far; feel free to post your photos as well. **All are welcome to submit photographs.**



Competition Evening

Mon, 2 Jun, 7 PM. Competition. *Wet*. Come and join us at Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center, 2051 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta. This evening's **Prints-only** competition is in-person only and in the Black Box Theater (next to the staff desk). After the meeting, we'll head out for social time. **All are welcome.**



Sat, 7 Jun, 7 AM (Sewell Mill Library carpool departs at 6 AM). **Field Trip. *Northeast Georgia Waterfalls*.** Join **Rick Olson**, Field Trip Chair, on another waterfalls field trip, one of our most popular field trips. Says Rick, "For our June field trip, NGPC member **Joe Kovarik** will lead us to a pair of little-known waterfalls and one that is quite popular. Much more information on the RSVP/Sign up form [here](#)." **Club members only.**



Continuing Education Evening

Mon, 16 Jun, 7 PM. [Continuing Education. Presentation Evening.](#) Join our host, **Hylos Barrett**, for this evening's Zoom-only educational presentation [here](#). **All are welcome.**

Tue, 17 Jun, 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.**



COBB
Photographic
SOCIETY

Sat, 21 Jun, 11:30 AM
- SOCIAL/POTLUCK
- WORKSHOPS
SWITZER LIBRARY- GAIL ROGERS ROOM
DOORS OPEN AT 11 AM FOR FOOD DROP-OFF/SETUP



Sat, 21 Jun, 11:30 AM PM. [Social/Learning Workshops.](#) *Spring Social with Learning Workshops.* Great food/fellowship at the potluck/social time. RSVP/Sign up form [here](#). **Club members, family, and invited guests only.**



*New Member
"Chat and Plan"*

Sat, 21 Jun, 11:30 AM. [New Members.](#) **"Chat and Plan"**. Held one-on-one during our Spring Social/Learning Workshops at Switzer Library. New members will meet 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. **New members and invited guests.**

Future Activities and Events

Month of July. Photo Challenge. Feels Like I'm Home.

Mon, 7 Jul, 3 PM. Competition. Deadline for Digital Images, Theme: *Seasons*. Using the updated CPS entry form [here](#), email the entry form and photos to cpsdigital2023@gmail.com. This is a digital photo competition. **Club members only.**

Sat, 12 Jul, 4 PM. Field Trip. Krog Tunnel, Atlanta Beltway, Jackson Street Bridge, and more. RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **Club members only.**

Mon, 14 Jul, 7 PM. Competition. Theme: *Seasons*. Come and join us at Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center, 2051 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta or attend via Zoom [here](#). Note this is a digital photo competition. After the meeting, we'll head out for social time. **All are welcome.**

Mon, 28 Jul, 3 PM. Competition. Deadline for Digital Images, Theme: *Motorcycles, Bikes, Tricycles*. Using the updated CPS entry form [here](#), email the entry form and photos to cpsdigital2023@gmail.com. This is a digital photo competition. **Club members only.**

Notes from Around Our Club

Competition Evening- *Trees.*



Michael Boatright, a long-time club supporter, joined us again for an evening of judging club photos and offering encouragement as well as in-depth critiques to better our photos.

Michael's tips focused not only on camera work but editing tips as well. His recommendation is to read PPA's *12 Elements of a Merit Image* article located in the back of this magazine *Member-2-Member* section.



Photos by
Jeff Westland

Presentation Evening- *Tom's Favorite Places to Photograph Next to Georgia.*



Tom Wilson, a gifted natural and landscape photographer, revealed his favorite Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, and Florida places to photograph landscapes and nature. An informative presentation, chock full of excellent photos to inspire all of us. Tom's document link to all the places detailed are in the back of this magazine's *Articles, Photo News, ...* section. (Photo is Tom's)



They Say It's Your...

Birthday!

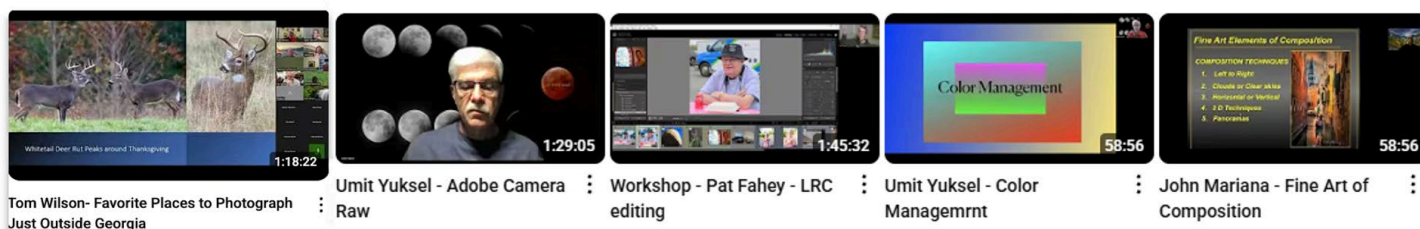
- 6 June- **David Batley**
- 8 June- **Jimmy Gatt**
- 15 June- **Brava Henson**
- 15 June- **Chris St. Aubin**
- 19 June- **Rick Olson**
- 22 June- **Pat Fahey**
- 22 June- **Patrick Olmsted**
- 26 June- **Mark Chandler**
- 30 June- **Marc Moskowitz**

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* divisions. And the one award to rule them all (Standard: Color + Standard: Monochrome), *Overall Photographer of the Year*.

Overall:	Phyllis Westland
Novice Division:	Joyce Harrison
Standard Division: Monochrome:	Melissa Moody
Standard Division: Color	Phyllis Westland

Monthly CPS YouTube Presentations.



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

FYI, Tom Wilson's video had a glitch with uploading to our YouTube Channel.

Please find that video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDnFOYEOOPA>

CPS Spring 2025 Social/Potluck and Workshops.



Sat, 21 Jun is our Social/Potluck. **Ümit Yüksel**, Learning Workshop Chair, will introduce the two workshops presented by **Michael Parvin** and **Mike Gutting**. RSVP/Sign up form [here](#).

11:30 AM. Drop off your potluck drop off after 11 AM, **Dee Dee Bonesteel**, Social Chair, will supervise the food setup and be ready at 11:30 AM. We'll furnish the drinks, utensils, and napkins/plates. Please bring a serving spoon for your potluck dish.

1 PM. Michael Parvin will show you a “Painterly Look” technique for your photos using Photoshop (see below). If desired, bring your laptop to follow along!

1:45 PM. Break.

2 PM. Mike Gutting will walk us through his studio setup and Photoshop workflow for the familyChristmas card (see below).

Two excellent workshops to learn new skills!



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 Spring Exhibit People's Choice Award Winner.



Congratulations to **CJ Andretta** for winning the People's Choice award for the photo, **Owlets**.

This is not CJ's first win for the People's Choice Award but it is certainly one of his cutest photos!

Enjoy other exhibit photos later in the magazine.



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. View the document [here](#).

* January's Competition is wide open! No limit on the theme (family-friendly) or date the photograph was taken.

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

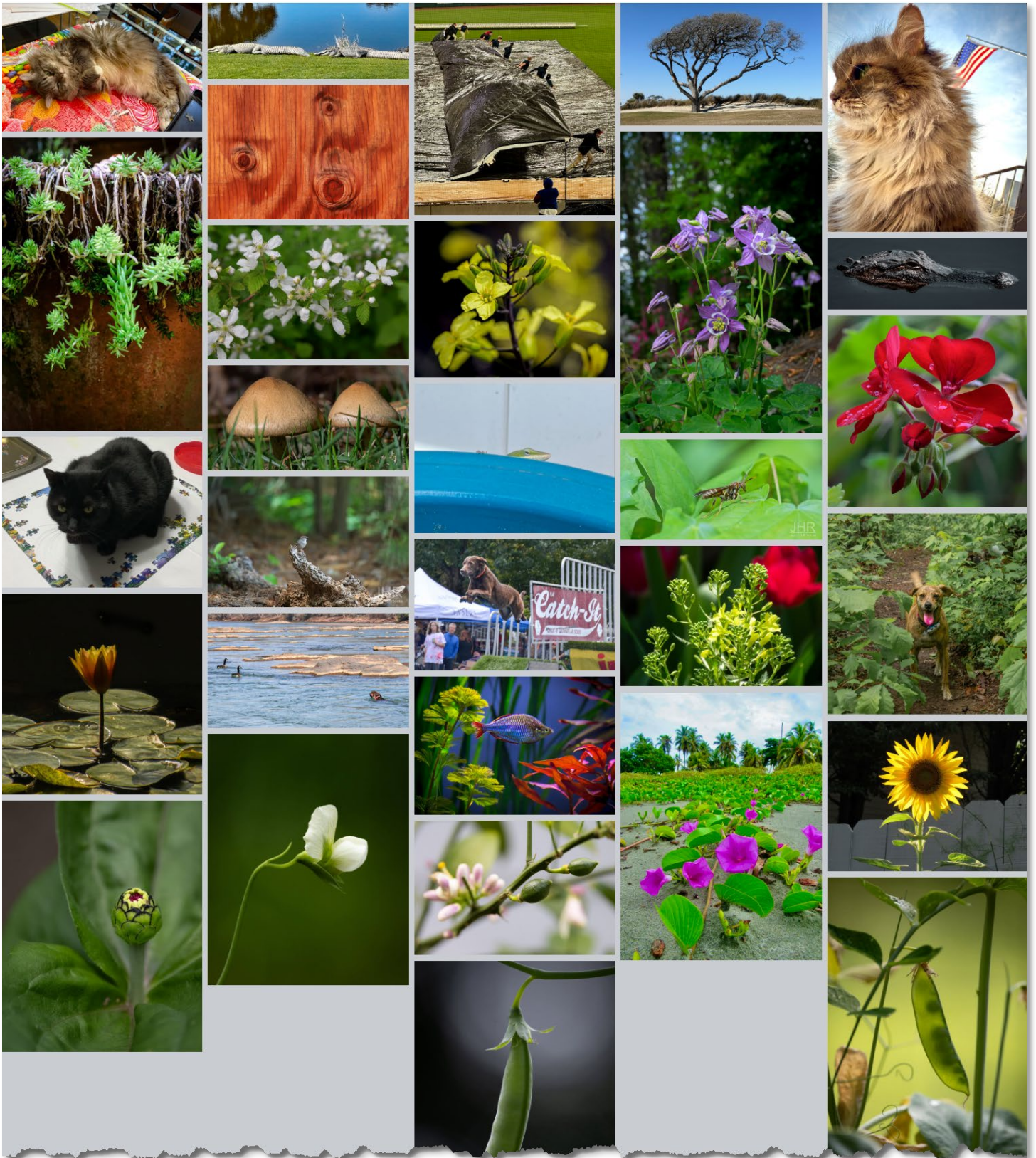
*** The month of November is not open for a general competition. Club members who placed 2nd through Honorable Mention compete for a wild-card first place in the *Best of the Year* competition in our Novice, Standard: Color, and Standard: Monochrome divisions. Winners are announced at our December Christmas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

Note: No AI is allowed in any submitted photo; it must be *all your work*.

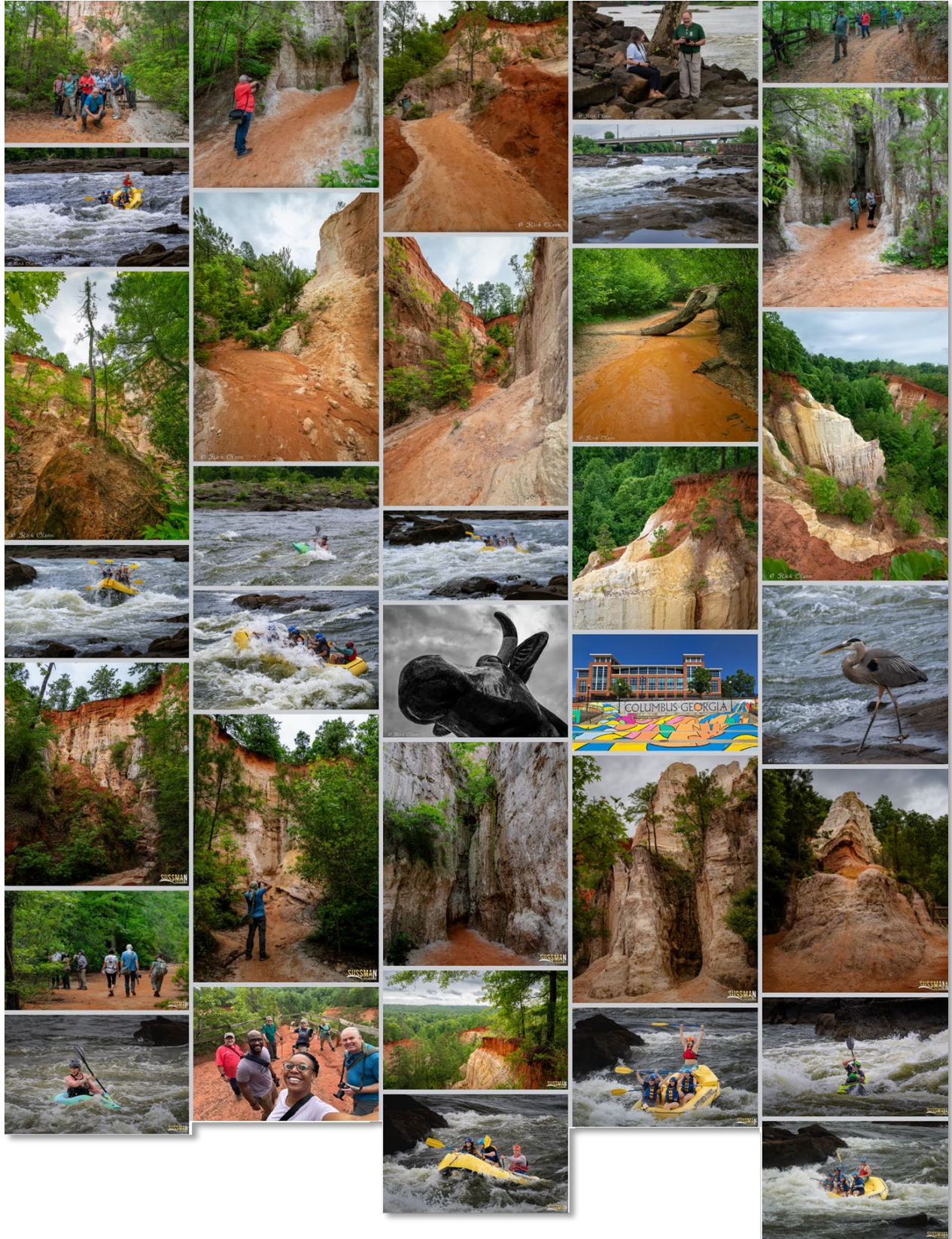
Photo Challenge: *It's Alive!*

Joyce Harrison, Mark Chandler, Marc Moskowitz, Pat Fahey, Rob Herman, Patricia Bonilla, Margaret Waage, and Allison Ruus had fun submitting photos that are rewarding to view. Feel free to view the May's photos, *It's Alive!* [here](#) AND contribute to June's challenge, *Colors of Spring* [here](#).



Field Trip: Providence Canyon and Columbus, GA.

Headed up by **Rick Olson**, a group of CPS and NGPC members headed down to middle Georgia to walk Providence Canyon and enjoy the city rapids next to downtown Columbus, GA before returning to Atlanta. View **all** the photos [here](#).



CPS Spring 2025 Exhibit and Best of Show Winner (1 of 2).

What a great collection of member exhibits for all of Cobb County residents to view!



CPS Spring 2025 Exhibit and Best of Show Winner (2 of 2).



Standard- Color Competition Winners



Second Place
Roswell Boardwalk
Michael Birnbaum



Third Place
Smith-Gilbert Tree
Michael Birnbaum



Honorable Mention
Strength And Elegance
Natalie Birnbaum



Honorable Mention
Winter Wonderland
Phyllis Westland

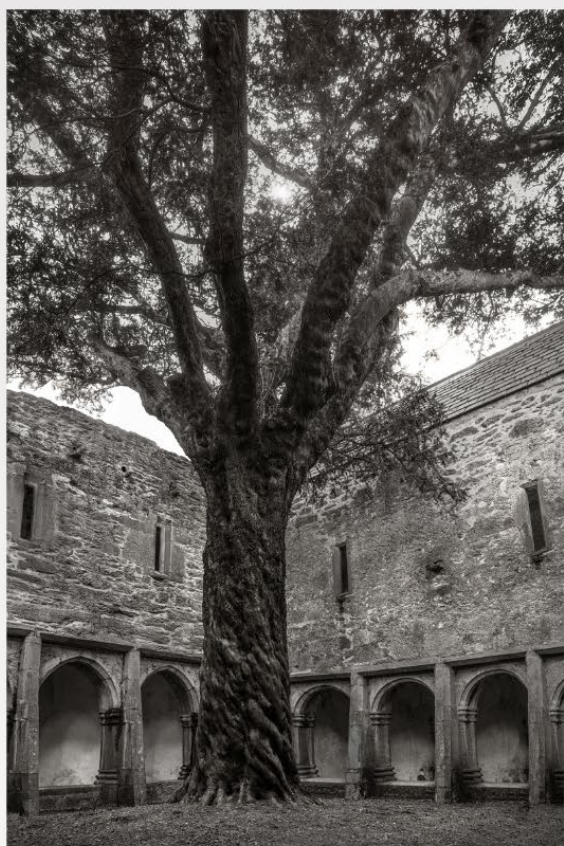
Standard- Monochrome Competition Winners



Second Place
King of the Hill
Melissa Moody



Honorable Mention
Knot Ear
Ralph Burr



Honorable Mention
Muckross Yew
Melissa Moody



Third Place
Trees of the Prarie
David Batley

Novice Competition Winners



Second Place
Autumn Reflections
Lori Mitchum



Honorable Mention
Tree Art
Joyce Harrison



Third Place
Last Light
Lori Mitchum



Honorable Mention
Winter Structure
Maura Davies

Member-2-Member's Classifieds and Websites

"A camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera"-Dorthea Lange-

Creative Photography Workshop with Club Member, David Batley.



David Batley will be conducting his next photo workshop at Smith Gilbert Gardens, **Saturday, June 28**, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. Fee is \$35. The workshop is for photographers of all levels. We will have fun photographing the many flowers and landscapes in the gardens.

Registration is easy--contact Smith-Gilbert Gardens at 770-919-0248

I am also available for private, one-to-one instruction. Call David for details, 404-314-6359.

Stay Tuned for Upcoming Courses with Club Member, 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.

Improve Your Photography with *The 12 Elements of a Merit Image*.



At our May competition, **Michael Boatwright**, our competition judge and a member of Professional Photographers of America (PPA), mentioned that PPA had a checklist to help photographers ready their photos for print competition.

Michael confirmed this is the article that helps select and prepare your image for competition. The checklist is [here](#) and a more detailed explanation of all 12 elements [here](#).

Ed: This is a GREAT checklist to help us in the field as well as competition prep.

Judge's Featured Website: Michael Boatright.

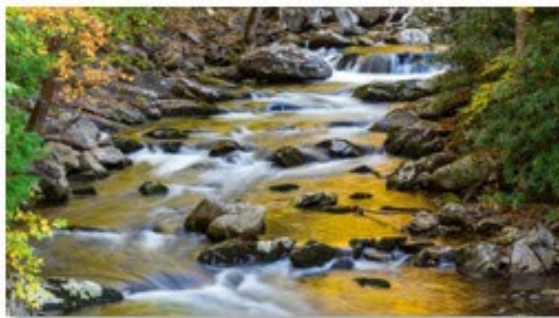


Michael's strengths are not only his traditional, unique style as a photographer but also his burning desire to share his knowledge of how to make photographs even better following tried and true techniques... that, if we're honest with ourselves, some of us skipped over in our quest to learn camera gear vs. photographic techniques.

You can view Michael's photography [here](#). While there, read his thoughts on his *Kairos Project*. Photos are Michael's work.

All (**Ed**: slightly cropped) photos are Michael's. Feel free to visit Michael's website [here](#).

Presenter's Presentation: Tom Wilson.



Tom has been a long-time supporter of our club as a presenter during our monthly continuing education presentations.

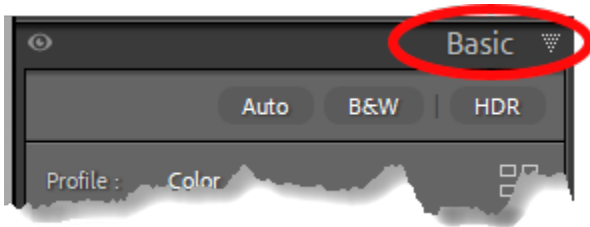
I can't think of a nature photographer who has visited as many sites in Georgia and the surrounding states. He has a talent for capturing his natural subjects at the decisive moment for professional, memorable photographs.

Tom doesn't have an active website at this time. You can view his May 2025 club video presentation, *Tom's Favorite Places to Photograph, Next to Georgia* [here](#).

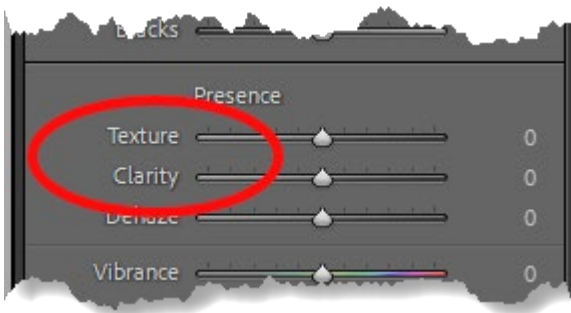
Photos are Tom's (from his May 2025 presentation).

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

Understanding Lightroom's Sharpening Options and More.



I've used Lightroom (Lr) for years and avoided using the Detail panel's **Sharpening** tool because it was separate from the Basic panel's sharpening tools: **Texture** and **Clarity**. I viewed *Sharpening* as a specialty tool; *Texture* and *Clarity* gave me what I needed... or so I thought.



This month, when I rearranged the order of my Develop panels on the right side, I decided to move the *Detail* panel to be under the *Basic* panel. Once moved, I wanted to try out the *Detail* panel's Sharpening tool. I was pleasantly surprised to see the subtle, fine detailed sharpening results after fine-tuning a photo with the Sharpening tool.



With a quick search, here is what I found out from **Paul McFarlane**, co-editor of Victoria Bampton's Lightroom Queen's forum [here](#).

"Each [sic: of the sharpening tools] affect different sized details on the photo.



- **Sharpening** affects the smallest (*Develop* > *Detail* panel)
- **Texture** enhances mid-sized (*Develop* > *Basic* panel)
- **Clarity** larger details (*Develop* > *Basic* panel)"

More videos and articles to explore in more depth:

- **Video: Julienne Kost:** *Texture, Clarity, and Dehaze* video is [here](#).
- **Article:** Adobe blog, *Introducing The Texture Control* article is [here](#).
- **Article: John Caponigro's** article explains, in great detail, the "effects" from using curves to the standard three Lr sharpening tools [here](#).

Three additional tips to help improve your specific points to sharpen and a setting to add “richness/depth”:

- Use the *Masking* tool to mask/select a specific area to limit your sharpening to the masked/selected area(s), making the masked area(s) “stand out”.
- Use the *black* slider (negative values) to add richness/depth to your photo.
- Consider adding a vignette (Develop > Effects > Amount= **-11** is a good start).

OK, you noticed the above articles, for the most part excluded **Dehaze** (affects tone and color). Anthony Morganti covers the Dehaze workflow [here](#). Two tips:

- *Increase* amount on for darker/richer-colored skies or deep color adjustments.
- *Decrease* amount for an atmospheric “fog” look to the affected area(s).

Crop, Mask, Sharpen, Clarity, Texture, Black, and Vignette.

Joy took a photo of our garden’s Dame’s Rocket flowers right after one of this month’s rainstorms. The following are the steps taken to achieve the final edited photo.



Original, cropped

105mm, f/11, 1/400. ISO 1600

FYI, Dame’s Rocket are tall plants and the faster shutter speed was to counter the slow swaying motion even with no wind.



Final, further **cropped** from top/right side

Masking Tool on the two whole blooms (center, center-left blooms) w Texture= **+53**, Clarity= **+9**, Sharpness= **+35**

Entire image:

- Blacks= **-89-ish**
- Adobe **Denoise**= **50**
- Post-crop **Vignette**= **-11**

Adobe's Jun 2025 Plan Pricing Increase (and No Price Changes).

Ed: Don't shoot me; I'm just the messenger.

Changes to Creative Cloud for individuals plans including students and teachers plans

First off, it's confusing what's happening if you

subscribe to the Creative Cloud- All Apps plan. You can downgrade the existing plan with reduced AI Generative AI credits or upgrade to a higher cost, Creative Cloud Pro subscription that has generous Generative AI credits. Look at the links below.

However, if you subscribe to the *Photography* plan, below is partial text from the Adobe website and the full webpage information is [here](#) and Creative Cloud (20GB) pricing changes are [here](#).

“Are there any changes to the Creative Cloud single app or Photography plans?”

Creative Cloud Photography (20GB) pricing changes | Common questions

There will not be any pricing or monthly generative credit changes for existing Creative Cloud single app or *Photography* plan subscribers.

However, starting June 17, 2025, new subscribers of the following plans will receive a reduced 25 monthly generative credits:

- Select mobile plans (Lightroom Mobile Premium, Photoshop Express, Illustrator on iPad)
- Photography plans (Creative Cloud Photography 1 TB)
- Single app plans (Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro, Lightroom, InDesign, etc.)”

Tom Wilson's Favorite Places to Photograph, Next to Georgia!



• Tom's favorite places to photograph, next to Georgia!

During our May Continuing Education Evening, several members asked Tom Wilson, our guest presenter, for a list of the places covered during the presentation.

Tom's list of locations and extra information is [here](#) (slightly modified to group the locations, by state).

Featured Website: The Equipment Behind The Awards... And Photos.

There is a nice twist to our monthly curated “Best of” photography web sites. The bigger story here is, at the start of the webpage, is a list of the cameras and lenses used to capture the winning photos. Mirrorless may be the future, but MOST of the cameras/lenses are DSLR (and one iPhone). While cameras and lenses are important, it’s really all about you and your photographic eye.

The *World Food Photography Awards* photos and equipment stories are [here](#).



Photo credits:

↑ **Hogging the Limelight**, Susan Lang

Flour Swirl, Dorien Paymans →

↓ **Banh Hoi Cake**, Dang Hoai Anh



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