

# Cobb Photographic Society



November 2025



Competition Theme: *Architecture*

(Cover) Winner- Monochrome

*In the Clouds*

Phyllis Westland

(Above) Winner- Color

*Pillars and Arches*

Jeff Westland



Winner- Novice  
*Majestic Swirl*  
Joyce Harrison

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# Upcoming Activities and Events

## November 2025



**All Month. Photo Challenge: Past Their Prime.** Marc Moskowitz, our Photo Challenge moderator, set up a club FB album for you to post your month's photos [here](#). *This is a fun event for all.* Photos by **Michael Barham, Dee Dee Bonesteel, and Jeanene Hamaker**, are just some of the photos uploaded so far. **All are welcome-** members and non-members- to submit photographs.

NG3C  **Shootout**

**Sat, 1 Nov. NG3C. NG3C Shootout.** Mark Chandler, our NG3C club coordinator, says, "This is a team event where our club will compete against other clubs in a fun competition. The event will be held in Marietta this year and is an all-day event (around 7:30 AM- 6 PM).

So far, we have around 16 members signed up. If you have not registered yet, please RSVP/Sign up [here](#).

 **Competition Evening**

**Mon, 3 Nov, 7 PM. Competition. Something Broken.** Come and join us at Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center, 2051 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta for this evening's digital competition. There will be Zoom access [here](#). After the meeting, we'll head out for social time. **All are welcome.**



**Sat, 15 Nov, 9 AM** (carpool leaves Sewell Mill at 8:30 AM). **Field Trip. Old Car City.** Join **Rick Olson** on our last field trip of 2025. Old Car City has a charm that has members asking for the field trip every year. FYI, if there is rain, the Savoy Auto Museum is our backup, eight miles away. RSVP/Sign up [here](#). Photos by **Rick Olson**.



## Continuing Education Evening

**Mon, 17 Nov, 7 PM.** **Continuing Education. Presentation Evening and 2026 Officer Elections.** Join our host, **Hylos Barrett**, for this evening's Zoom-only educational presentation [here](#). There will be an officer slate presented to the club for voting at this meeting. **All are welcome.**



## Welcome/Orientation Evening

**Tue, 18 Nov, 7 PM.** **Welcome/Orientation. New Member Zoom. 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 included. Dee Dee will email the Zoom meeting URL a couple of days before the Zoom session to our new members. **New members only.**



**Thu, 20 Nov, 6-8 PM.** **Exhibit. Fall Exhibit Opening Reception.** Join us for light snacks and enjoy our club members' curated exhibits. Don't forget to vote for the *People's Choice* award. **All are welcome.**



**Thu, 20 Nov 2025 - 3 Jan 2026.** **Exhibit. Member Fall Exhibits.** Our annual Fall exhibit will be held at the Sewell Mill Cultural Center. This is a member showcase exhibit where there is no specific theme, just highlighting our best work. We want to highlight your best work, so please consider participating.

## Upcoming Activities and Events

**Month of December.** **Club Activities.** No photo challenge, field trip, learning workshop, continuing education evening, new member welcome zoom, Chat and Plan, or competition evening. Kick back and enjoy the holidays!



**Sat, 6 Dec, 6:30 PM.** **Social. Annual Awards Dinner and Social.** Join us at Marietta Fish Market (address above in the graphic) for our social, awards dinner, and guest speaker, **Tom Wilson**. RSVP/Sign up [here](#).

**Mon, 29 Dec, 3 PM.** **Competition. Deadline for Digital Images, Theme: General.** Using the updated CPS entry form [here](#), email the entry form and photos to [cpsdigital2023@gmail.com](mailto:cpsdigital2023@gmail.com). This is a digital photo competition. For this month, there is no time limit or theme limit. Have fun with your “golden oldies”! **Club members only.**



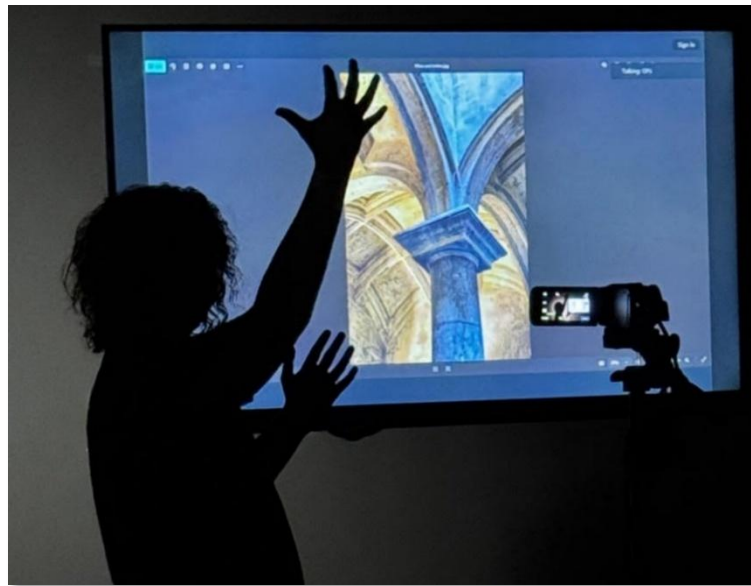
**Sat, 17 Jan 2026.** **Field Trip.** **Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.** Lots of information in the RSVP/Sign up (URL below) to consider (come up the evening before, ...) for a field trip to catch the sandhill cranes, as well as some pelicans and the occasional Kingfisher in a native/migratory environment. Stop by the Wheeler onsite education building to see how this refuge came about; an amazing story tied to the TVA. Photos by **Ümit Yüksel** and **Rick Wilson**. RSVP/Sign up [here](#).

# Notes From Around Our Club

## Competition Evening- *Architecture.*



Returning for yet another judging competition, **Lauren Holley**, added tips that stressed compositional placement for a more powerful/effective photograph. FYI, Lauren is a local photographer and the Creative Director of GRAPHIKNATION®, a creative studio specializing in graphics and web design, photography, and branding.



Photos by  
**Jeff  
Westland**



## Presentation Evening- *Photographing Nature's Food Chain.*

Club member, **Mike Birnbaum**, presented *Photographing Nature's Food Chain*. The continuing education presentation packed a lot of natural information [Ed: lots of nature info I didn't know] and excellent photos. Mike's presentation was well-received by club members.



They Say It's Your...

*Birthday!*

- 7 Nov- **Natalie Birnbaum**
- 10 Nov- **David Brown**
- 18 Nov- **Phyllis Westland**
- 21 Nov- **James Bartlett**
- 28 Nov- **Judy Ghormley**

## 2025 Competition Standings- Overall and Division.

Every January, we clear the totals and begin fresh for next year. 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 (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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), *Photographer of the Year*.

Overall:	<b>Phyllis Westland</b>
Novice Division:	<b>Joyce Harrison</b>
Standard Division: Monochrome:	<b>Melissa Moody</b>
Standard Division: Color	<b>Jeff Westland</b>

## Monthly CPS YouTube Presentations.



You can review our club's library of the latest saved presentation videos from the last 4+ years here except for these latest videos [here](#):

- Oct 2025 Mike Birnbaum's presentation, *Photographing Nature's Food Chain*, video is [here](#).
- FYI, Sep 2025 presentation time was spent between members sharing photos and a lot of informative, "Behind the Scenes" details.
- Aug 2025 David Johnston's presentation, *The Magic of Waterfall Photography*, is [here](#).
- Jul 2025 Mike Robertson's presentation video, *Off Camera Lighting*, is [here](#).
- Jun 2025 Tom Wilson's presentation, *Favorite Places to Photograph Just Outside GA*, video is [here](#).

## **2026 Officer Elections at the Nov Education Zoom Meeting.**

During the Continuing Education Zoom meeting on **Monday, 17 November**, the club will vote for our 2026 officer nominations.

The Nomination Committee developed an officer slate of the following nominees:

- President: **Pat Fahey** (incumbent)
- Vice President: **Hylos Barrett** (incumbent)
- Treasurer: **Rob Herman** (incumbent)
- Secretary: **Dee Dee Bonesteel** (incumbent)

**Note:** members can nominate other club members at the 17 Nov Zoom meeting.

The Continuing Education meeting and elections will be Zoom only and you can join our Zoom meeting [here](#).

## CPS 2026 Photo Challenge Themes Schedule.

This is a ***FUN month-long challenge*** for all to participate and post their photos to a specific monthly club FB album during the months of January through November.

**Marc Moskowitz**, Photo Challenge Chair, will open every month's theme about a week early for posting to a FB album. As an example: Friday, 25 July, Marc provides all club members with a link to the August 2025 Photo Challenge album, *America the Beautiful*, for uploading from 25 July through the end of August.

No prizes and no awards; just your personal participation in a fun, helpful environment! If you have questions, contact Marc [here](#).

Monthly Photo Challenge (all month)	Photo Challenge Theme
<b>2025</b>	
October	I Found It On a Walk
November	Past Their Prime
December	(no Photo Challenge; enjoy the holidays)
<b>2026</b>	
January	Colors
February	A World in Black and White
March	Food
April	Tiny Things
May	Words Around Us
June	What is That? (Crop to an interesting portion of something we would normally recognize. Describe what the full photo is in the description when you upload the photo to the June FB album.)
July	Our Furry Friends
August	Planes, Trains, Buses, and Cars
September	Reflections
October	Parts and Pieces
November	Flowers
December	(no Photo Challenge; enjoy the holidays)

## CPS 2025-2026 Monthly Competition Themes Schedule.

Monday Deadline for Digital Submission	Monday Competition Evening	Competition Theme
<b>2025</b>		
September 29	October 6	Architecture
October 27	November 3	Something Broken
November 17	(closed) ***	Winning 2025 photos compete for a wild card 1 <sup>st</sup> place in each of the three divisions. ***
None	Xmas Party	End of Year Awards Ceremony
<b>2026</b>		
December 29	January 5*	General
January 26	February 2	Metro Atlanta (Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, Gwinnett, and Clayton counties)
February 23	March 2	Juxtaposition <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">Prints-only</span>
March 30	April 6	Shapes
April 27	May 4	Unusual Perspective
May 25	June 1	Wildlife and Water <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">Prints-only</span>
July 6	July 13**	Patterns
July 27	August 3	Something Old / Vintage
September 7	September 14**	Bridges or Tunnels <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">Prints-only</span>
September 28	October 5	Taken With a Smart Phone
October 26	November 2	Bokeh / Beautiful Blur
November 16	(closed) ***	Winning 2026 photos compete for a wild card 1 <sup>st</sup> place in each of the three divisions. ***

Unsure of what a theme means/looks like? Our Competition Chair, Laura Prescott, developed a reference document with definitions/pictures for every 2026 month [here](#).

\* January's Competition is wide open! No limit on the theme (family-friendly) or the date when the photograph was taken. Wide open competition for your best photos ever!

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

\*\*\* Club members who placed 2nd place through Honorable Mention during the year can compete for a wild-card first place in the *Best of the Year* competition in our Novice, Standard: Color, and Standard: Monochrome divisions. Winners will be 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's *Black Box Theater* and personally view our members' print craftsmanship.

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



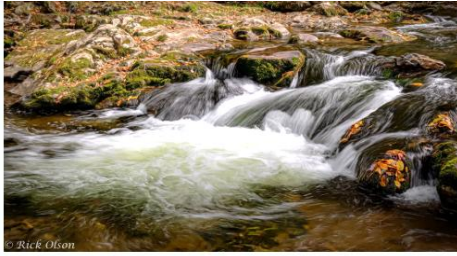
**November-December Exhibit Theme is “Your Best Work”.**

**Mark Chandler**, our Exhibit Chair, selected our Fall exhibit theme as “Your Best Work”.

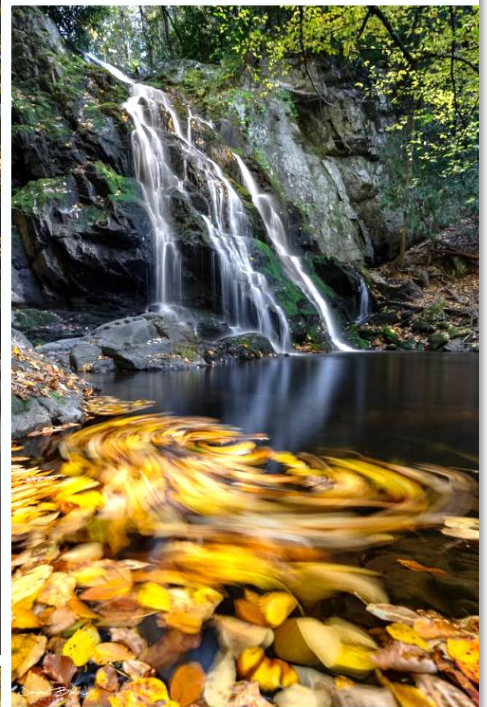
See the *Upcoming Activities and Events* calendar at the front of this magazine for more information about upcoming deadlines and events.

## Field Trip: Tremont/Great Smoky Mountains (1 of 2).

A new field trip this year was arranged by our field trip chair, **Rick Olson**, and North Georgia Photo Club (NGPC) members familiar with the area, **Travis Rhoads** and **Jason Blalock**. View the beautiful mountain and stream photos [here](#).



# Field Trip: Tremont/Great Smoky Mountains (2 of 2).



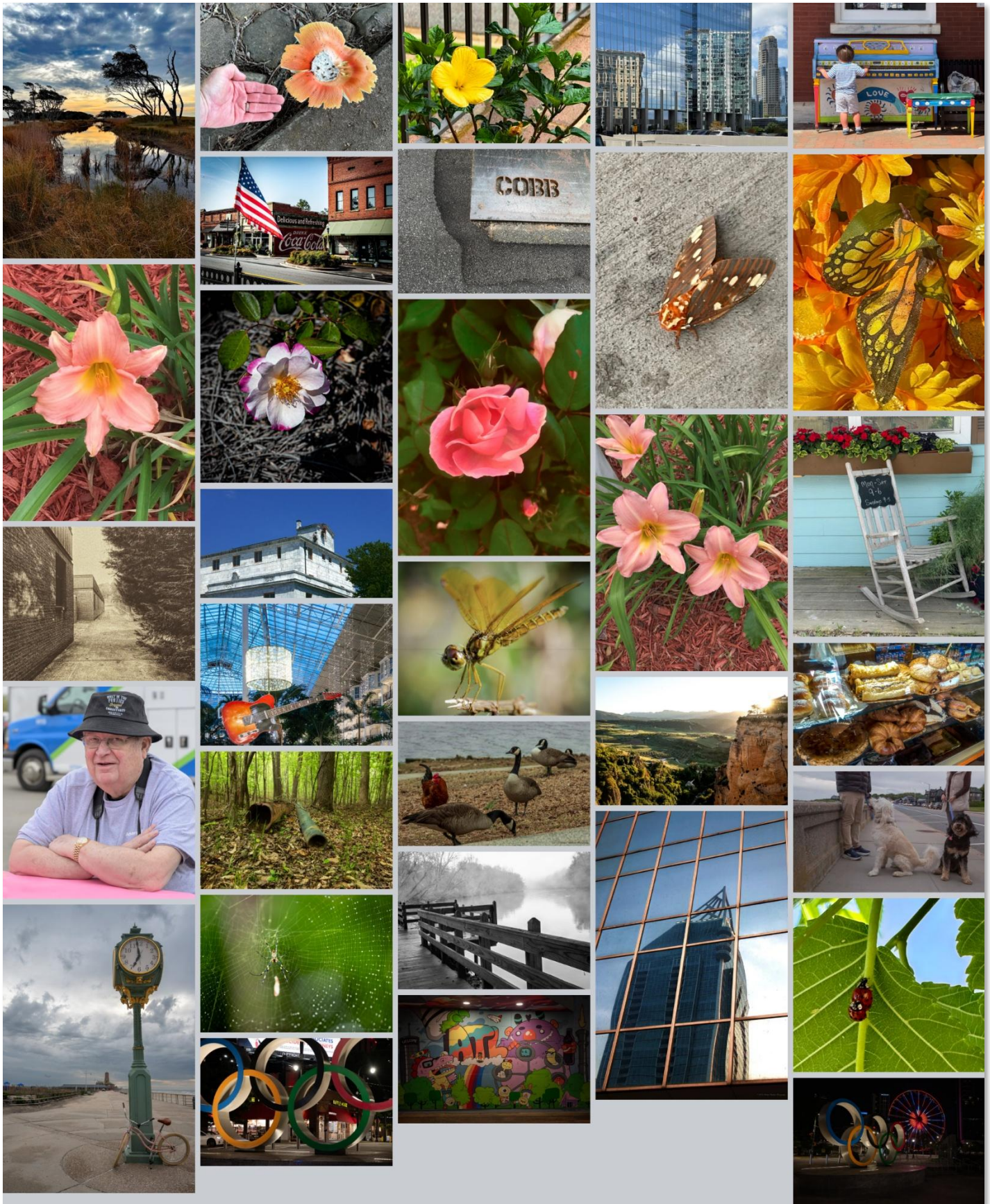
## Field Trip: Train Chase.

Our CPS field trip leader, **Ronda Clark**, dusted off an “oldie” field trip the club did a while back. With feedback from North Georgia Photo Club (NGPC) member, **Mike Sussman**, the trip went off without a hitch. View the photos [here](#).



## Photo Challenge: *I Found It On a Walk.*

Wonderful photos from club members and others! See all the submitted photos in full resolution via this [link](#)!



# Standard- Monochrome Competition Winners



Second Place  
*Chenonceau*  
Ben Moravitz



Third Place  
*From the Shadows*  
Lou Fuentes



Honorable Mention  
*Galway Cathedral*  
Melissa Moody



Honorable Mention  
*Dublin Relic*  
Melissa Moody

# Standard- Color Competition Winners



Second Place  
*A Place for Solace*  
Marc Moskovitz



Third Place  
*Overlook Reflection*  
Jeff Westland

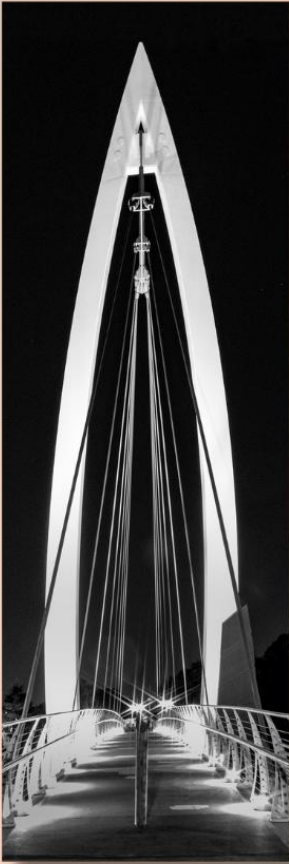


Honorable Mention  
*Midwestern Folk House*  
Angie Nasrallah



Honorable Mention  
*Empire Rising*  
Lou Fuentes

# Novice Competition Winners



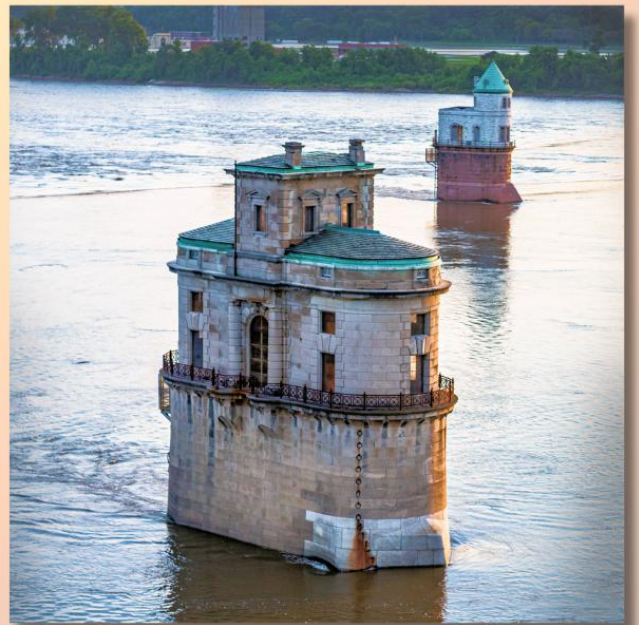
Second Place  
*Tapered Framework*  
Maryann Crow



Third Place  
*Stone Church*  
Rhonda Clark



Honorable Mention  
*Library*  
Tanya Burr



Honorable Mention  
*Prominent Seclusion*  
Maryann Crow

# Member-2-Member's Classifieds and Websites

## A Local Camera Repair Option.



A question that always comes up from club members is whether there is a less expensive way to seek local help for simple repairs rather than mailing the cameras back to the manufacturer or use the local camera repair shops.

A certified Nikon repairman, **Berrie Smith**, is always at the annual NG3C shootouts to assist with quick repairs to most cameras and sensor cleaning; he has a good reputation for his repair work. His contact info is on the business card (above photo).

## Non-Member Camera (And More) Sale.

A local non-member, **Len Sanchez**, is offering camera and studio equipment for sale. Len's email is [len.sanchez1@gmail.com](mailto:len.sanchez1@gmail.com). To see the entire list and offer, click [here](#).

1 ea Canon EOS 60D 18 Megapixel Camera w/strap, manual, Charger & Aux Battery Grip  
Frame Count = 12,800 Excellent Condition  
1 ea Pelican Style Shock Proof Case for EOS 60D

1 ea Canon EOS 7D 18 Megapixel Camera w/strap & manual & Charger & Aux Battery Grip  
Frame Count = 16,864 Excellent Condition

12 ea Lithium Ion LP-E6 Type Batteries (Some Canon some aftermarket)

1 ea Canon EF 50 mm f/1.8 II Lens Excellent Condition

1 ea Canon EF 17-40 mm f/4L USM w/LP1319 Case and EW-83E Lens Hood  
Excellent Condition

1 ea Canon EF 24-70 mm f/2.8L USM w/LP1219 Case and EW-83F Lens Hood  
Excellent Condition

1 ea Sigma 70-200 mm f/2.8 APO EX DG OS Telephoto Lens Excellent Condition

1 ea Sigma EX APO Teleconverter 2X DG AF Excellent Condition

2 ea Canon 580 EX II Flash Units with Diffusers Excellent Condition

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

## Adobe Max Introduces New Features to Entire Line of Products.

Every October, Adobe holds the *Adobe Max* conference to release major updates to all Adobe products. Here are some of the big updates of interest to photographers.

Lightroom and/or Adobe Camera Raw:

- **AI Culling (early release).** Assists with identifying images that are out of focus, no eye contact, flash misfires, and other criteria. [Ed: it's quirky; check your culled images before deleting- some culled images may be A-OK and it's easy to add them back into your good photos. This is a **“work in progress”**].
- **Dust Spot Removal.** Remove dust spots on sensor from image.
- **Distraction Removal.** Remove people.
- **Generative Upscale.** 2x upscale of photograph. The 2x upscale is very good.
- **Point Color.** Variance (Classic & Desktop). The new Variance slider is in *Point Color*. It lets you increase or decrease specific color contrast. For example, evening out tone variations or increasing contrast between similar colors. More info [here](#).
- **Auto Stacking.** Again, a **“work in progress”** but offers more than *stacking by time* that we've had for years. [Ed: I haven't explored this but am intrigued if it stacks “like photos” and puts the best photo on top of the stack]. More info [here](#).

Photoshop:

- **Harmonize (aka, Compositing).** Given two layers (background layer and a masked layer with people/objects to add to the background image), the lighting and color from both layers are analyzed and a new adjustment layer reflects a common color grading AND adds shadows to the added people/objects. [Ed: it's still a **“work in progress”**, has quirks, but shows promise].
- **Improved Adobe Gen AI With New Vendor Gen AI Options (Topaz, Google).** **Note:** Depending on your subscription plan, Adobe Gen AI and newly added vendor AI options may require the purchase of Gen AI credits.
- **Generative Upscale.** 2x and larger upscales of photograph (requires Gen AI credits). Photoshop and now the vendor Topaz, have Gen AI options to upscale.

**Editor:** There are several very good photo editing programs (cheaper) and some other editing programs that are free. Yes, the Adobe subscription model pushes the photo editing tools to do more with less effort but with the recent price increase, it is a larger, monthly recurring expense. These “shiny” editing tool upgrades do make editing easier but, for the most part, you can achieve the same effects with other programs.

## Jan 2026 PPA/Imaging USA Expo in Nashville, TN.



Professional Photographers of America (PPA) and Imaging USA are holding their joint annual Expo in Nashville, TN from **11 Jan 2026** to **13 Jan 2026**.

Currently, there's an online special to buy a one year PPA membership and also receive access to all the 2026 expo events and training, Join and Go All-Access Pass (\$329).



FYI, Joy and I opted to register for the no-cost Expo Pass at the Nashville PPA/Imaging USA Expo Pass a couple of years ago that allowed access to a lot of the convention's floor activities including the vendor section featuring live models to photograph. This was timely for Joy who placed a photo taken by her at the Expo in one of our monthly competitions and placed!

You can register for the online special and other options, including the no-cost Expo Pass (paid and free) [here](#).

Photo by **Joy Rogers**.

## Featured Website: 2025 Nikon Comedy Wildlife Awards.

OK... no photo critique agenda; just fun photos. Nikon sponsors competition for the funniest animal photos.

You can view the 25 photos [here](#).

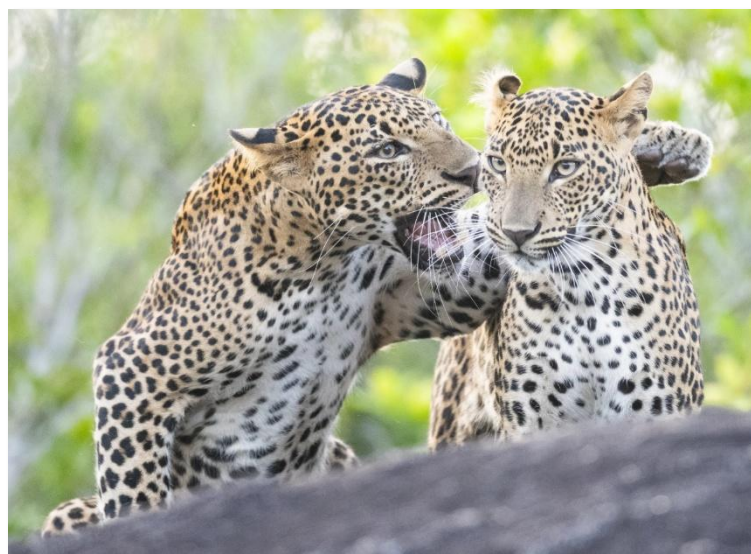


← *Go Away!* by Annette Kirby

*What Do You Mean I Need To See A Dentist?* by Bingqian Gao ↑

← *Paint Me Like One Of Your Forest Girls* by Michael Stavrakakis

*Badmouthing* by Hikkaduwa Prasantha ↓



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