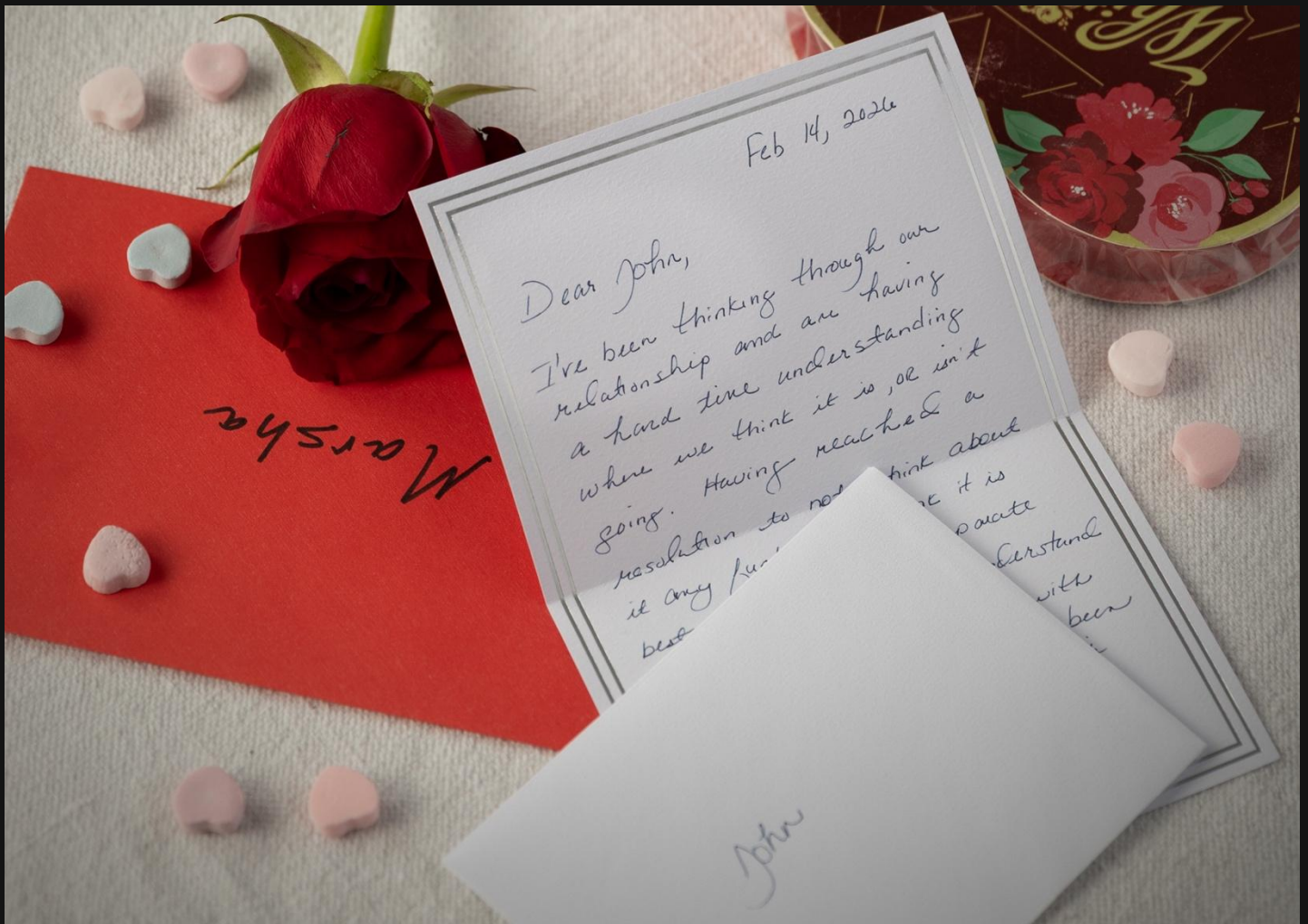


# Cobb Photographic Society



April 2026



Competition Theme: *Juxtaposition*

(Cover) Winner- Monochrome  
*Ascension*  
Pat Fahey

(Above) Winner- Color  
*John & Marsha*  
Ralph Burr



Winner- Novice  
Aging  
Joy Rogers

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- 26 Articles, Tips & Tricks, and Featured Website**

# This Month's Activities and Events

## April 2026



**All Month. Photo Challenge. *Tiny Things*.** 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 **Spiff Carner, Marc Moskowitz, Rick Olson, and Melissa Moody** are just some of the photos uploaded so far. **All are welcome-** members and non-members- to submit photographs.



### Competition Evening

**Mon, 6 Apr, 7 PM. Competition. *Shapes*.** Come and join us at the Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center for this evening's **Digital Only** competition. For this competition, there will be Zoom access [here](#). We encourage you to stop by. After the meeting, we'll head out for optional social time. **All are welcome.**



**9 Apr- 12 Apr. Extended Field Trip. Birding Field Trip to SC and environs.** Join **Rick Olson** and **Joe Kovarik** on a new club field trip to Port Royal, SC and optional side trips. More field trip information/RSVP [here](#). **Note:** 9 Apr and 12 Apr are days of travel. Photos by **Joe Kovarik. Members only.**



**Mon, 13 Apr, 7 PM. Learning Workshop. Session 1- Robin Davis' Creating Your Own Photo Series.** Via Zoom, **Michael Parvin** will discuss project scope questions as well as look at Robin's three different examples. There may be a few member examples we may have in SmugMug by then. Composites and post-processing effects are OK for those projects not submitted to future CPS competitions. These are perfect for exhibitions, your home, and gifts! All registered members will receive an email before the meeting with the Zoom URL. **Photo series by Robin Davis.**

More information/RSVP for both learning workshops [here](#). **Members only.**



### Continuing Education Evening

**Mon, 20 Apr, 7 PM. Continuing Education. Presentation Evening.** Join our host, **Hylos Barrett**, for this evening's Zoom-only educational presentation [here](#). Hylos will email all club members the week before with more information. **All are welcome.**



### Welcome/Orientation Evening

**Tue, 21 Apr, 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.**



*New Member  
"Chat and Plan"*

**Sat, 25 Apr, 10:30 AM. Membership. New Member Meeting.** Building on Tuesday's *New Member Welcome* Zoom session, new members are invited to join **Ronda Clark**

at [Switzer Library's](#) breakout rooms to see the next twelve months of planned activities so they can plan their participation in club activities. An optional lunch and a follow-on Marietta Square walkabout. Conversations invariably lead to camera gear, techniques, as well as tips and tricks during the photo walkabout. Ronda will email new members the week before. **New members only.**

**Mon-Tue, 27-28 Apr.** **Exhibit.** **Drop off artwork to the Art Place- Mountain View**, 3330 Sandy Plains Road Marietta, GA 30066.

**Mon, 27 Apr, 3 PM.** **Competition.** **Deadline for Digital Images, Unusual Perspective.** Using the updated CPS entry form [here](#), email the entry form and photos to [cpdigital2023@gmail.com](mailto:cpdigital2023@gmail.com). FYI, digital photos are required for both **Digital Only** and **Prints Only** competitions by the above deadline. **Members only.**

## Upcoming Activities and Events

**Fri, 1 May – Sun, 31 May.** **Exhibit.** **Spring Exhibit.** **Mark Chandler**, Exhibit Chair, says

“Our next semiannual exhibit will be at The [Art Place - Mountain View](#). This is a great opportunity to display your work and promote our club! The theme is open, so you can submit your best work, any genre. It just needs to be family friendly.

If you are new to this and need help in selecting images, feel free to contact [me](#).”

There's more information from Mark in his 13 March email to all club members. **Members only.**

**Mon, 4 May, 7 PM.** **Competition.** **Unusual Perspective.** Come and join us at Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center, 2051 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta for this evening's competition. For this digital photo competition, there will be Zoom access [here](#). After the meeting, we'll head out for optional social time. **All are welcome.**

**Thu, 7 May, 6-8 PM.** **Exhibit.** **Spring Exhibit Reception** at The [Art Place- Mountain View](#). **All are welcome.**

**Sat, 9 May.** **Learning Workshop.** **iPhone Photography.** Join **Pat Fahey** as we cover iPhone camera settings, tips for better photos, editing, and travel photography tips at Switzer Library's *Rogers Room*. More information/RSVP [here](#). **Members only.**

**Thu, 14 May, 7 PM. Learning Workshop. Session 2- Robin Davis' Creating Your Own Photo Series.** Michael Parvin will host the second, in-person workshop to cover how to apply finishing edits to give your series a flattering, consistent tone/color/monochrome throughout your series and other finishing touches. Bring your laptops to follow along. All registered members will receive an email with the location before the session. **Photo series by Robin Davis.** More information/RSVP for both learning workshops [here](#). **Members only.**

**Sat, 16 May. Field Trip. Gibbs Gardens.** More information/RSVP to follow. **Members only.**

**Tue-Wed, 2-3 Jun. Exhibit. Pick up artwork from the Art Place,** 3330 Sandy Plains Road Marietta, GA 30066. **Exhibition members.**

***Save the date!* Sat, 13 Jun. Social. CPS Spring Social.** Our annual potluck and hands-on learning workshops will be held at Switzer Library's Rogers Room. **Members, family, and friends welcome.**

## Notes From Around Our Club

### Competition Evening- *Juxtaposition.*



A fond farewell to **Eric Bowles** who is moving outside the Atlanta area.

To an accomplished photographer and club supporter, thanks, Eric!



This evening was **Prints Only** and the submitted prints were top-notch! As always, Eric turned the session critiques into a meaningful discussion of how a judge views competition photos.

### Presentation Evening- *Creating Your Photographic Series.*



Can you believe it? We were expecting to sit back and enjoy a presentation. To our surprise, we were asked if we wanted to take part in a creative project!

A longtime friend of the club, **Robin Davis**, extends an offer to members to present their 3-5 photo series at our 15 June Continuing Education evening. More info on the project, Robin's presentation video URL, and mentor support on **page 10** of this magazine.



Photo Series  
By  
**Robin Davis**

They Say It's Your...

*Birthday!*

- April 16- **Spiff Carner**
- April 19- **Mary Abernathy**
- April 30- **Mary Ann Ortiz**

## 2026 Competition Standings- Overall and Division.

Every January, we clear the totals and begin fresh for next year. The 2026 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 2026 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>Jeff Westland</b>
Novice Division:	<b>Joyce Harrison</b>
Standard Division: Monochrome:	<b>Jeff Westland</b>
Standard Division: Color	<b>Ralph Burr</b>

## Just Announced: JapanFest is 19-20 September!

A club favorite field trip is the JapanFest. Members have the opportunity to photograph on Saturday or Sunday and enjoy a few hours surrounded by the culture and food of Japan. We will also have a studio to photograph families, friends and Manga characters.

More information/RSVP in July.



**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!**

**JAPANFEST ATLANTA 2026**

September 19 - 20 🍡 Gas South Convention  
Center

## Upcoming Learning Workshops to “Step Up” Your Work.



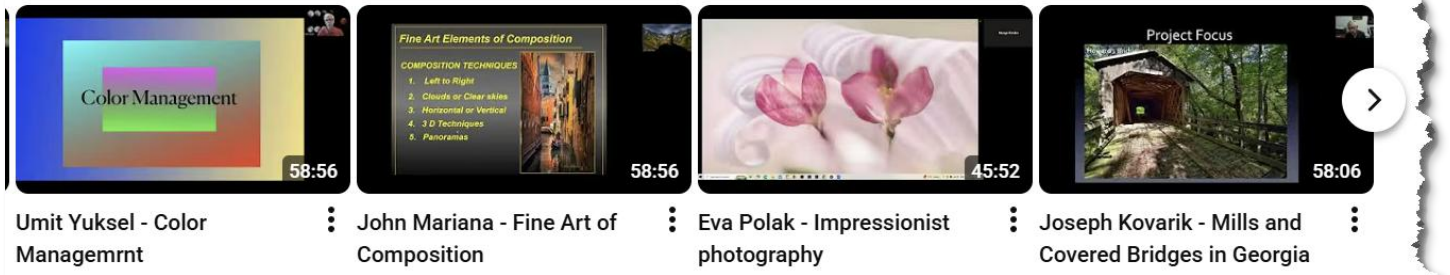
Sometimes the best way to improve your photographic story is to learn a new way of telling your story. **Robin Davis** presented a challenge to all club members to tell their story through a series of 3-5 digital prints and present them at the **Monday, 15 June** Continuing Education Zoom Presentation evening.

This is a great opportunity to step into another area of photography and enjoy the benefits of learning another genre and new techniques.

**Michael Parvin**, an accomplished club photographer who specializes in this photographic genre, graciously volunteered to serve as a mentor for all members participating in this challenge:

- On **Monday, 13 April**, Michael will host a Zoom session to help define your photographic series and answer your questions. Be sure to RSVP below to receive notices of meetings.
- On **Thursday, 14 May**, Michael will host an in-person session to cover post-processing. Bring your laptops. Be sure to RSVP here to receive notices of meetings.
- For more information/RSVP, click [here](#). Photo Series by **Robin Davis**.

## Monthly CPS YouTube Presentations.



Over the last months, we've experienced problems posting to our CPS YouTube site. These missing videos are listed below and older videos are posted on our YouTube site [here](#):

- Mar 2026, Robin Davis' *Creating Your Photographic Series* is [here](#).
- FYI, Feb 2026 presenter unable to attend.
- Jan 2026, Mike Moats' *Creative Ways to Photograph Flowers* is [here](#).
- Dec 2025. No presentation during December; family time.
- Nov 2025, Glen Varnhagan's *Planning Your Trip* is [here](#).
- Oct 2025, Mike Birnbaum's *Photographing Nature's Food Chain* is [here](#).
- FYI, Sep 2025 presenter unable to attend. Time was spent between members sharing photos and a lot of informative, "Behind the Scenes" details.
- Aug 2025, David Johnston's *The Magic of Waterfall Photography* is [here](#).
- Jul 2025, Mike Robertson's *Off Camera Lighting* is [here](#).
- Jun 2025, Tom Wilson's *Favorite Places to Photograph Just Outside GA*, video is [here](#).

## The Continuing Travel Photos of Paul Shimek (1 of 4).

Paul's travels started again in February. The photos below are photos from his last year's (2025) worldwide trip, in chronological order (page 13 and page 15).



The third leg of my trip began in **Guyana, South America** in February of this year, and I continued on to Aruba, Colombia, and then to Costa Rica, where I am now. I had been to the latter three countries before.



Salinas Grande, **Argentina**



## The Continuing Travels of Paul Shimek (2 of 4).

01-Lake Atitlan-03 (**Guatemala**). Sunset over Lake Atitlán in Guatemala, one of my favorite places in Central America. Lake Atitlán is a nearly mile-high caldera lake surrounded by three prominent, cone-shaped volcanoes pictured in the background. I made this image from the Mirador, a steep hike up from the village Santa Catarina Palopó, on the east side of the lake.

Technical Data: 2/2/25; iPhone 14 Pro

02-Salinas Grande-01 (**Argentina**). The Salinas Grandes is a massive, high-altitude salt flat in Northwest **Argentina**, spanning roughly 82 square miles across the provinces of Jujuy and Salta. I flew into Salta and rented a car to get there. Located at an average altitude of 11,320 feet above sea level, it is one of the most iconic landscapes in the region and is often cited as the third or fourth largest salt flat in the world. This image is a combined double exposure of the scene, the first of which was exposed for the foreground after sunset, and the second one was exposed an hour later (in the dark) for the sky.

Technical Data:

- 1st exposure: 6/19/25 at 7:14PM; iPhone 16 Pro
- 2d exposure: 6/19/25 at 8:11PM; EOS R6 Mark II; RF14-35 @ 14mm; ISO 6400; f/4; 15 sec.

03-Mexico City-01 (**Mexico**). The Monument to the Revolution is a memorial arch commemorating the Mexican Revolution and is located in the Plaza de la República in downtown Mexico City, Mexico. This monument, the tallest memorial arch in the world standing 220 feet high, is illuminated at night with a vibrant magenta-purple light. A glass elevator, pictured here from the ground floor, runs up through the central axis of the monument all the way up to an observation deck inside the cupola.

Technical Data: 7/3/25; iPhone 16 Pro

04-Chichen Itza ruins (**Mexico**). The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Chichén Itzá is a massive complex of Mayan ruins located in the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico 75 miles east of Merida. It was recognized in 2007 as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. El Castillo (Temple of Kukulcán), the most iconic structure in Chichen Itza, is a 30-meter step pyramid that served as a physical calendar. Each of its four sides has 91 steps, which, along with the top platform, total 365 steps for each day of the year. At night it is illuminated, and I made this image from the east side.

Technical Data: 7/6/25; iPhone 16 Pro

05-Guanajuato-02 (**Mexico**). This was my second visit to Guanajuato, Mexico, having first been there in 2006, the year after I transitioned from slide film to digital photography. While wondering through the many alleys, I came upon these curious dogs having a bad hair day.

Technical Data: 7/27/2; iPhone 16 Pro

# The Continuing Travels of Paul Shimek (3 of 4).



Oslo

Stockholm

Baltic Sea

North Sea

United Kingdom

Denmark



Ireland

Netl

Poland

Wars



London

Belgi



Paris

Czech



Austria

Fr

Croatia

Serbia



Barcelona

R

Portugal

Spain

Tyrrhenian Sea

Lisbon



## The Continuing Travels of Paul Shimek (4 of 4).

06-Oslo-01 (**Norway**). The Oslo Opera House is the architectural center of Norway's national performing arts and home to the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet. I made this image in the foyer where the angular architecture features extensive large glass facades. The roof of the building angles to ground level, creating a large plaza that invites pedestrians to walk up and enjoy views of Oslo.

Technical Data: 8/24/25; iPhone 16 Pro

### 07-Copenhagen-01 (**Denmark**)

The Round Tower is a 17th-century landmark in central Copenhagen, Denmark, famous for its unique spiral ramp instead of stairs. Completed in 1642 by King Christian IV, it is part of the Trinitatis Complex, which originally combined an astronomical observatory, a university library, and a church into one building. The spiral ramp is a 209-meter long, 7.5-turn helical corridor designed for horse-drawn carriages to transport heavy scientific instruments and books to the top. In this photo of the interior, I used curves and contrasts as a compositional elements.

Technical Data: 8/30/25; iPhone 16 Pro

### 08-Vienna-01 (**Austria**)

The interior of Vienna, Austria's St. Charles' Church is a masterpiece of High Baroque architecture, featuring opulent marble work, gilded carvings, and dramatic, light-filled spaces, including a 70-meter-high dome with stunning frescoes by Johann Michael Rottmayr. This image is of the pipe organ situated on the raised gallery (organ loft) directly above the main entrance.

Technical Data: 9/23/25; iPhone 16 Pro

### 09-Slovenia-02 (**Slovenia**)

Slovenia is a hidden gem for nature photography. I photographed this autumn forest scene on a short hike off of Road 635 between Kropa and Jamnik.

Technical Data: 10/23/25; iPhone 16 Pro

### 10-Slovenia-03 (**Slovenia**)

Slovenia is world-renowned for its scenic hilltop churches. This image is of the Church of St. Thomas (Sveti Tomaž) at sunrise. It is near the small village of Praprotno, where I stayed.

Technical Data: 10/28/25; EOS R6 Mark II; RF100-500 @ 500mm; ISO 100; f/22; 0.7 sec.

### 11-Sarajevo-02A (**Bosnia-Herzegovina**)

A three-meter aluminum statue of Pope John Paul II stands in front of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. It depicts the former Pontiff in a reflective, meditative prayer position and was created by Sarajevo-born sculptor Hrvoje Urumović. In this image, I juxtaposed the statue with a billboard on the adjacent building advertising the Srebrenica Genocide Memorial Exhibition.

Technical Data: 11/29/25; iPhone 16 Pro

### 12-Dublin-01 (**Ireland**)

Dublin, Ireland (country #120) was my last stop in Europe on the way back to the US in December, 2025. This image depicts the Samuel Beckett Bridge at night with the Convention Centre in the background.

Technical Data: 12/28/25; iPhone 16 Pro

# Standard- Color Competition Winners



Second Place  
*Are They Too Close*  
Jeff Whittingham

Third Place  
*Trapped In the Wrong Dimension*  
Jeff Westland



Honorable Mention  
*Deck of Cards*  
Melissa Moody

Honorable Mention  
*Leaving the Past*  
Rob Herman



# Standard- Monochrome Competition Winners



Third Place  
*Daisy*  
Melissa Moody

Second Place  
*Leaving the Past Behind*  
Jeff Westland



Honorable Mention  
*Abandoned*  
Umit Yuksel



Honorable Mention  
*Are You Talkin' To Me*  
Mark Buckert

# Novice Competition Winners



Second Place  
*I'm Up and You are Down*  
Maryann Crow



Third Place  
*Replica Attempt Divergence*  
Maryann Crow



Honorable Mention  
*Behold the Tree*  
Rob Herman

Honorable Mention  
*House III Roy Lichtenstein*  
Joyce Harrison



Joyce Harrison

## CPS 2026 Monthly *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>2026</b>	
January	Colors
February	A World in Black and White
March	Food
April	Tiny Things
May	<a href="#">Words Around Us</a>
June	<a href="#">What is That?</a> (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	<a href="#">Our Furry Friends</a>
August	<a href="#">Planes, Trains, Buses, and Cars</a>
September	<a href="#">Reflections</a>
October	<a href="#">Parts and Pieces</a>
November	<a href="#">Flowers</a>
December	<a href="#">(no Photo Challenge; enjoy the holidays)</a>

## CPS 2026 Monthly Competition Themes Schedule.

Monday Deadline for Digital Submission	Monday Competition Evening	Competition Theme
<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="float: right; 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="float: right; 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="float: right; 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 1st 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.

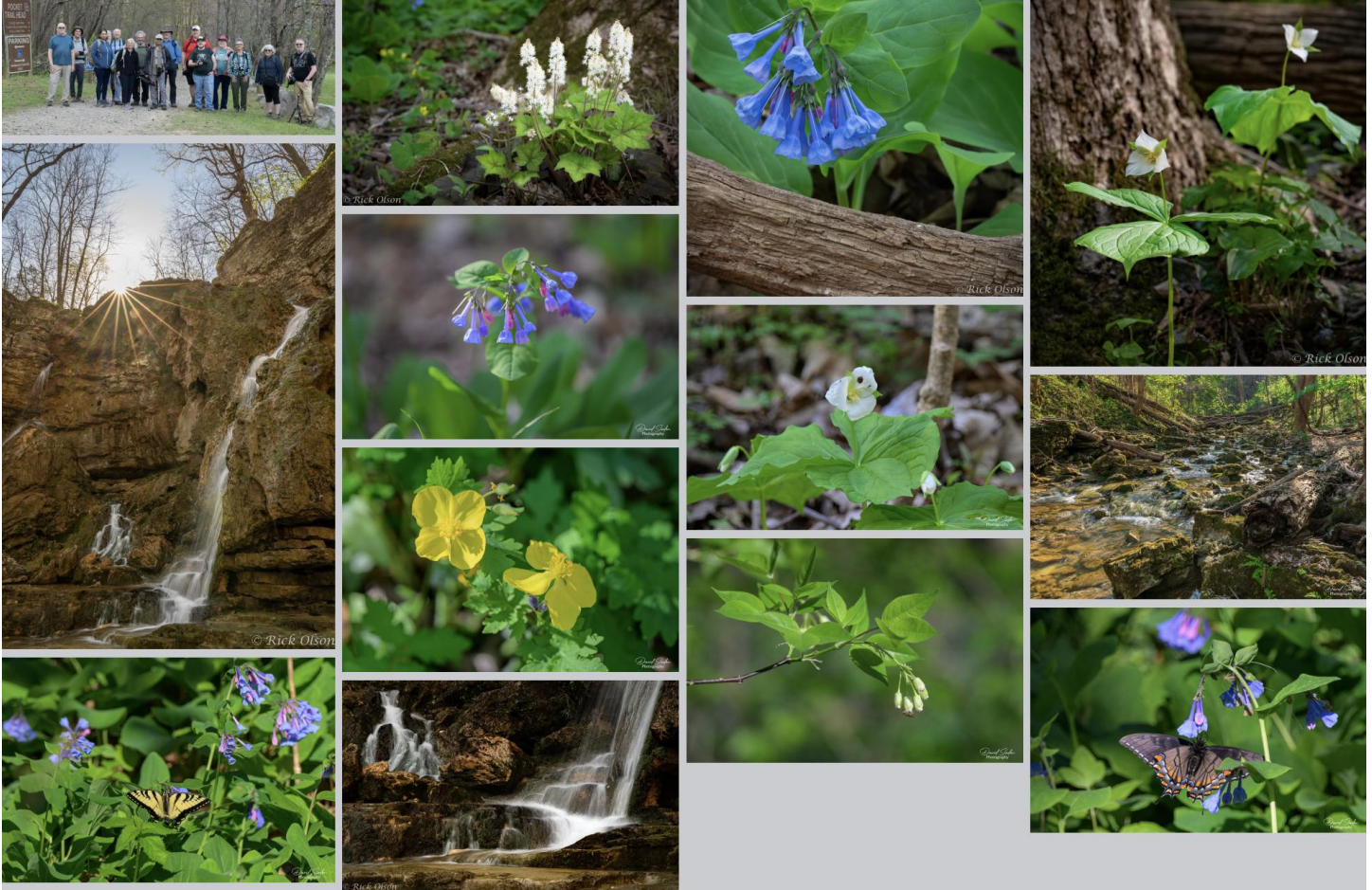
\*\*\* Club members who placed 2nd place through Honorable Mention during the year can compete for a wild-card first place in the *Best of the Year* competition in our Novice, Standard: Color, and Standard: Monochrome divisions. Winners will be announced at our December Christmas party.

**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*.

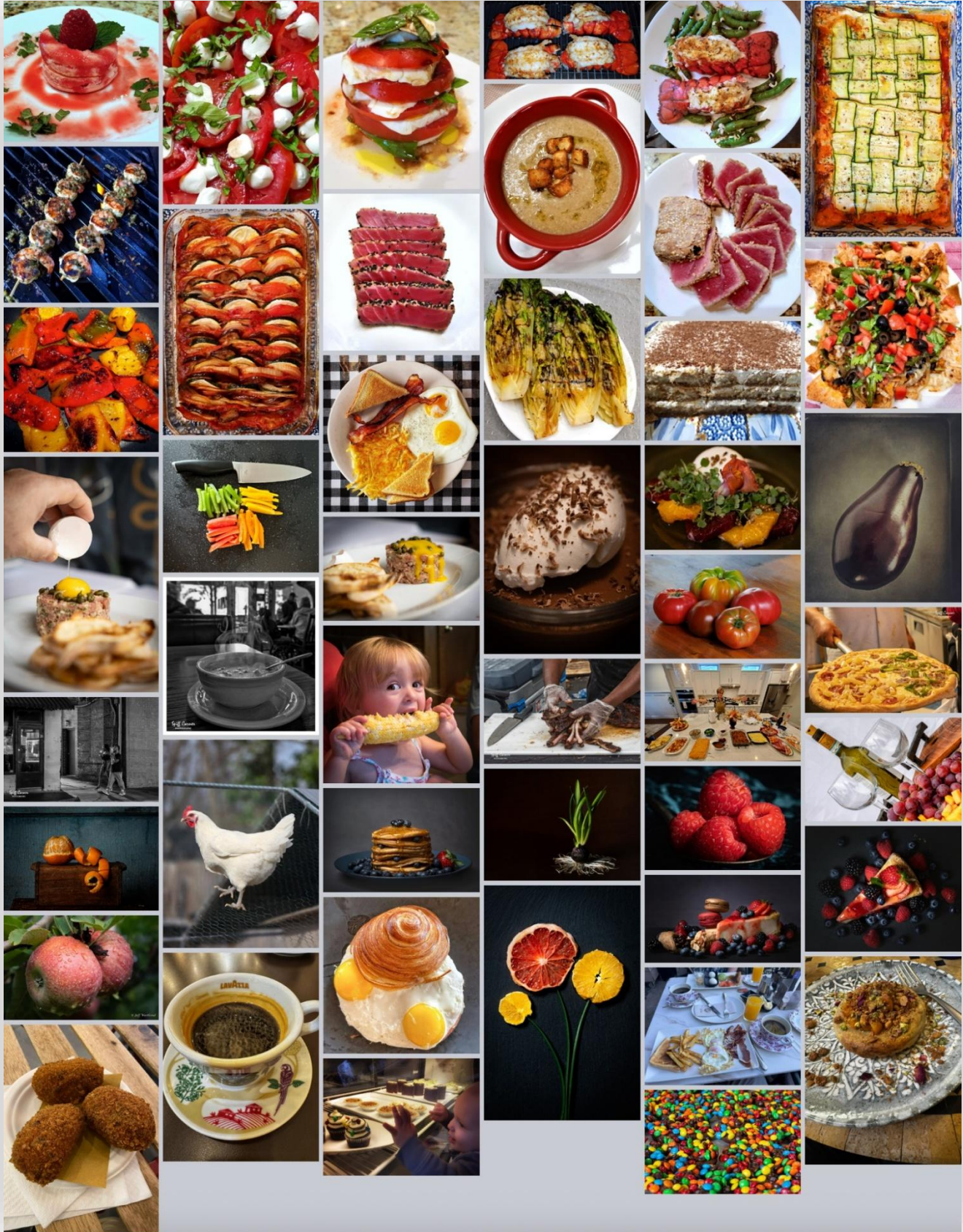
## Field Trip: Shirley Miller Wildlife Trail.

Field trip leader, **Rick Olson** guided CPS and NGPC to the tucked-away wildlife trail, Shirley Miller. Other members posted more photos to our FB discussion pages. You can view the full-size photos [here](#).



## Photo Challenge: Food.

Another fun month of images. Enjoy the photos of **Kimmy Jo, Margaret Waage, Allison Russ, Spiff Carner, Lorrie Smith, and Marc Moskowitz.** You can view all the full-size photos [here](#).



## Learning Workshop: Android Photography.



ANDROID

**Rick Olson** presented a quality presentation on the capabilities and features of numerous Android phone makes and models to club members.

It's a tough job to cover the features because at times there are differences between makes of phones with the same update version.

The attending members were amazed at functions available they were not aware of for their phone photography and video.

Email Rick if you'd like a copy of the presentation [here](#).

### OUTLINE

- Introduction / Practical Stuff
- Getting Started / Shooting Options
- Capture Controls / Menu Setup
- Shooting Modes
- Apps from Google and Samsung
- Editing, esp with Native Editor
- Gotchas to avoid
- Samples



### PORTRAIT MODE

29

Example of a portrait mode image, where the camera did a pretty good job of defining the subject (sharp) vs background (soft).

*Rick Olson*

### NIGHT MODE



*© Rick Olson*

"Night" shooting mode during late twilight, works well if you can hold it steady or, better, use a tripod. (Cellphone adapters for tripods are cheap!) This image of Carter's Lake is 0.7 seconds, ISO 2500, handheld.



## THANK YOU

Rick Olson  
916-715-4196  
bloozyguy@gmail.com



*© Rick Olson*

Image made using Galaxy S9 from a canoe on the 'hooh.



## Member-2-Member Classifieds

(Open to all members and club supporters)

### Creative Photography Workshop with Club Member, David Batley.



**David Batley** will be conducting his next photo workshop at Smith-Gilbert Gardens on **Sat, 11 Apr**, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. Fee is \$35.

FYI, Smith-Gilbert Gardens' renovations are complete!

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.

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

### Upcoming Workshops with Club Member, Mark Chandler.



Another experienced instructor who is a long-time club member and our Exhibit and Social Media Chairs, **Mark Chandler**, will have classes in the near future.

Check back here next month for Mark's upcoming classes.

### Upcoming May Workshop with Club Supporter, Larry Winslett.



Says Larry, "Interested in improving your bird photography, and more?"

Join me in my upcoming workshop in historic St. Augustine, Florida. This will be an opportunity to really practice and improve your bird

photography at the famous Alligator Farm, home to one of Florida's premier bird rookeries. In addition, we will photograph much of St. Augustine's history.

Contact me at my website [here](#), 404.375.8405, [winfog@winstream.net](mailto:winfog@winstream.net), or download the flyer (above image) [here](#) for more information.

I hope you'll consider joining me!"

# Articles, Tips & Tricks, and Featured Website

## Articles and Tips & Tricks.

### Androidography.



Cellphone cameras continually evolve, with steady improvements to hardware and an ever-expanding array of features and capabilities. Today, the very best among them can sometimes rival “real” cameras. But *all* cellphone cameras, even the less fancy ones, provide this benefit: they’re the *one* camera that you nearly always have in reach!

Hence, learning all the power in your phone’s camera can help you create better images when your cellphone is the camera of choice...or necessity. *(And don’t forget: our October photo contest is “made with a cell phone.” May as well start making some great cellphone images now!)*



Several CPS members participated in our March Learning Workshop about using Android phone cameras. If you’re an Android user and you missed the presentation, it is available as a .pdf file from Rick Olson – he’ll send it to you upon request. (bloozyguy@gmail.com)

The presentation concludes with examples of images made with my Samsung Galaxy S24+, and the final image, older, was made back when I had my S9.

So get out there with your cellphone camera, and have fun with it!

Contributing author, **Rick Olson**.

## **Landscapes of Georgia Winner's 1,000 Mile Journey.**



Club member, **Patrick Olmsted** (first row, left side), has a story that makes you hope you never have the same experience. Bummed out? The happy ending is on **page 29** of this magazine.

The story about the competition from the Georgia Council of the Arts begins in April of 2024. I was a member of the Cumming Arts Center and one of their newsletters included a link to the competition. The subject of the competition was “Landscapes of Georgia” and the only restriction was that the image had to be something in Georgia and you could only enter two images.

I knew that I had two images that would be acceptable. One was a waterfall image taken at **Anna Ruby Falls** in October of 2020 and the second image was at **Driftwood Beach** in March of 2021. I uploaded both images and explained that I also make my own frames for my work.

The months went by and I had just about given up any hope, then in October of 2024, I received an email from the Georgia Council of the Arts telling me that both of my images had been accepted. The email also stated that in January of 2025, we would be invited to the State Capitol and have our picture taken with the Governor along with our artwork.

Since I have been retired, I have been going to Florida from the first of January until the end of March. I had to make new plans for the 2025 season in Florida, as I now had to stay home in January 2025 and wait to hear when we were going to have the meetup at the Capitol.

The second week in January 2025, I received an email from the Georgia Council for the Arts, telling me that because of renovations at the Capitol, there was not going to be enough room for all of the exhibitors and that my two entries would have to wait

until January of 2026. As you can imagine, I was quite perturbed, as I had made special plans to be home now. I also had made two special larger format frames, which I now had to keep in safe storage at home for another year.

In October of 2025, I received an email from the Georgia Council of the Arts; they asked if I was still interested on showing my art for the 2026 exhibition. I responded, of course, and that I was looking forward to it. They responded that the meet up at the Capitol would be sometime in January 2026. I once again stayed home from Florida the entire month of January 2026.

The third week of January 2026, I emailed and called the Georgia Council for the Arts, explaining that I was leaving for Florida on January 30 and if they had not set a date by then, that I would just like to drop off my artwork on my way to Florida.

I was in Florida and I received a call the second Monday in February from Kenny at the Georgia Council for the Arts asking me when I would like to drop off my art ,as they were still working on a date with the Governor's office. I said that it would have been nice to get this call two weeks ago when I was still at home. I said at this point, I would just wait until they set a date.

Another week went by and they finally set out an email that established the drop off date and photo with the Governor at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, at the State Capitol. I loaded up my artwork in my pickup and left Winter Haven, FL, on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I stopped for the night in Valdosta and then drove to McDonough, Ga, on the 24<sup>th</sup>. This put me about 30 miles from the Capitol on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Because there was a Legislative session that day, parking was a nightmare and I finally found a parking garage 4 blocks away. I made it through security and now was inside the capitol at 12:30 p.m. I found a bench seat in the hall by the Governor's office and waited until 3 p.m. At 3 pm, a representative from the Georgia Council for the Arts told us that we needed to find a place on the steps by the Governor's office for the photo, as I was under the assumption that we would be getting individual photos with the Governor. As it turned out, it was just a group photo.

At 3:20 p.m., Governor Kemp and his wife came out, made a very brief comment thanking us. They then moved to the center of the steps on the first row. The photographer took three group shot photos and the Governor and his wife returned to his office. We were then lead down to the Arts office to drop off our work and by 3:45 pm. I left the Capitol and made it back to my truck. From there, I was back on the road to Florida.

Please don't get me wrong, I am deeply honored that both of my submissions will be on display for 2026, but I really felt slighted that we did not receive individual recognition from the Governor's office. I did get back to Florida to my campground late Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup>.

My thousand mile adventure and my year and a half wait were finally over.

## **Landscapes of Georgia Winner's Technical Review.**

Now the good stuff where **Patrick Olmsted** explains his "Behind the Scenes" work for:

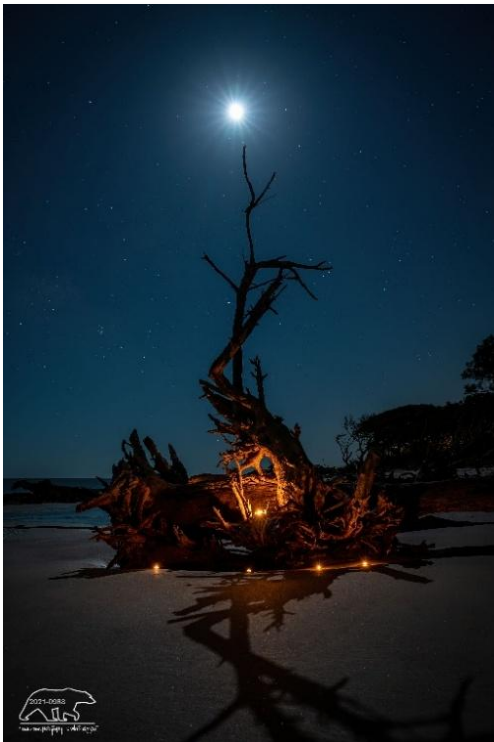


### *Anna Ruby Falls.*

This shot was taken in October of 2020 and it was rare to have that much water flowing at that time of the year.

I always liked this shot for its leading lines back to the waterfall.

I did enhance some of the tree colors for this shot in post.



### *Driftwood Candelabra.*

I scouted the location on Driftwood Beach the afternoon before my test shot, At the time, this driftwood base was under water. I knew I would need to do this at low tide. I hand practiced the shot early morning before I did the final, but with only one votive candle. I realized it was not enough light, so I found a Walmart in town and bought a multi-pack of votive candles.

On the morning of the shot, I was on the beach at 4:30 AM. The driftwood was out of the water and no footprints in the sand. I got my shot setup with just the moon light. Then I very carefully came in from the sides and placed the votive candles and then lit them. Luckily, it was perfectly calm and the candles stayed lit. I took one practice shot, made one more adjustment in exposure and took this as the final shot.

This is one of my favorite images with the lighting and the shadows.

**Featured Website: World Nature Photography Awards 2026.**

Nature is all around us and an integral part of our lives. This month’s website features unusual photos that evoke emotion that reminds us we share this planet with nature.

**Excellent winning photos to view!** You can visit the website [here](#).



"BEAR HUG" LOCATION- SVALBARD, NORWAY SILVER, BEHAVIOUR - MAMMALS CREDIT- MICHAEL STAVRAKAKIS / WORLD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS MICHAEL STAVRAKAKIS



"Māhina"  
Location: Vava'u, Tonga  
World Nature Photographer of the Year  
Credit: Jono Allen / World Nature Photography Awards

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