

COASTAL PHOTO CLUB



June 2023 Newsletter



Keukenhof Tulips
by Paul Gemperline



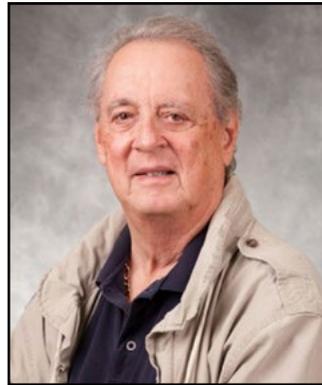
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bob Dumon, President Coastal Photo Club



Time for me to ramble on again, so here goes ...

What is it about photography that so captivates us? I'm sure the answer to this question varies widely from photographer to photographer. For me, I got my first camera when I was around age 15 (some 70 years ago), and I was hooked! I think it was an Eastman Kodak Pony 135, a small, lightweight model. I loved it. My first recollection of how I felt when I took possession of that first, early film camera was one of a kind of empowerment.



I now had a tool with which I could create things, pictures of anything I wanted! I still remember experimenting with all kinds of photos: shooting raindrops (and in the Michigan of my youth, snowflakes as well), falling on a lamp post at night, taking tons of "snapshots" at family gatherings, shooting sporting events in high school, capturing "abstracts" of all kinds of things, although back then I didn't know that's what they were called.

And with those early steps into the wonderful world of photography, in addition to my photographic curiosity and love of taking photos an addiction emerged. These days I believe it is called "gear acquisition syndrome." Perhaps some of you may be afflicted with this same disease, the need to continually be in search of the next piece of photographic gear you don't really need, but desperately want!

If we analyze why we just "have to have" that next piece of gear, we know, internally, that getting it won't make us better photographers. So why do we want that newer camera/lens/filter/flash, blah blah blah? If it won't make us a better photographer, why do we need it? Clearly there is no one perfect camera, but for me, my desire for new gear is based

on wanting to have products that make it easier for me to capture photos.

Sure, better glass will improve image quality. But better gear won't automatically provide us with a better sense of composition, or allow us to recognize better subjects to capture. So why upgrade? Lately, due to my old age and arthritis in my thumbs, I've moved away from my heavy DSLRs and lenses in exchange for lighter, more compact Fuji gear (which is also less expensive than was my Nikon and other brands).

I must confess I've always been a bit of a gear-head, whether with trumpets and trumpet accessories, "hi-fi" to stereo to surround sound audio gear, to our full-blown home theater over our garage with seven speakers, overhead projector, 107" screen and two rows of rocking home theater seats. It seems I'm always chasing some kind of new gear. But it is in the field of photography where my gear acquisition syndrome is most apparent.

How about you? Are you also affected with some kind of gear acquisition syndrome, be it photo gear, model trains, model cars, quilts (Mary?). And if it pleases you, why not! We only live once. Go for it. Just don't forget to SUBMIT some of the photos you take with all your cool gear in our minicomps. See what other members think about your work. And please take the time to vote and comment on the work of others in our monthly minicomps. It's how we all can improve. And it's all FREE!!! Until next month, get out there and keep shooting.

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From the Members

by John Steady

CPC photo contests offer an exciting opportunity for members to share their work, engage with fellow photographers, and receive recognition within our local photography community.

However, it is important to recognize that art is inherently subjective, and the judges' personal preferences and biases can influence their scoring, particularly when members may lack formal training or experience in judging.

Here are some of the benefits of participating in CPC photo contests while considering the subjectivity of judgments made by fellow members.

1. Supportive and Encouraging Environment:

CPC photo contests create a supportive and encouraging environment for photographers to showcase their work. As fellow members, the judges are likely to have a deep appreciation for the artistic endeavors of their peers. This camaraderie fosters a sense of belonging and provides a platform where members can receive constructive feedback, learn from one another, and celebrate each other's achievements.

If we keep the emphasis on community and mutual support this can be highly motivating for photographers to participate and continue honing their skills.

2. Opportunity for Growth and Learning

While some club judges may not possess formal training or extensive experience in judging, their evaluations still offer valuable insights. The feedback provided by fellow members can help photographers gain a fresh perspective on their work, identify areas for improvement, and encourage them to experiment with new

techniques or subjects. The diverse range of perspectives within our club can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of how different audiences perceive and interpret your images.

3. Building Trust and Rapport

Participating in CPC photo contests judged by fellow members allows photographers to build trust and rapport with other members. By engaging in the mini comp process, members can deepen their connections with others who share a common passion for photography.

These interactions can lead to mentorship opportunities, informal workshops, or collaborative projects, further enriching the creative journey of all involved. The shared experience of evaluating and being evaluated can create a sense of unity and promote a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

4. Nurturing Creativity and Exploring New Approaches

CPC contests provide a space for photographers to explore their creativity and push the boundaries of their artistic expression. Considering the inherent subjectivity of evaluating artistic work, CPC members may be more open to unconventional or experimental approaches to photography.

This freedom to explore different styles and techniques can be liberating and encourage photographers to step out of their comfort zones. The constructive feedback received from fellow members, even without formal judging expertise, can help photographers refine their vision and develop a unique artistic voice.



From the Members

5. Celebrating Diverse Perspectives

The inherent subjectivity of evaluating artistic work allows for the celebration of diverse perspectives and aesthetics. Each member brings their unique background, experiences, and personal preferences to the evaluation process.

This diversity enriches the club's collective understanding and appreciation of photography as an art form. By embracing this subjectivity, members can gain a broader understanding of how their work resonates with different individuals, further cultivating their ability to create impactful and meaningful images.

Subjectivity and Judges' Scoring

Art, including photography, is subjective by nature. It is influenced by personal taste, cultural backgrounds, and individual experiences. The subjectivity of art can impact judges' scores, as they bring their unique perspectives and biases to the evaluation process.

Different judges may have varying preferences for composition, subject matter, technical proficiency, or emotional impact. Consequently, a photograph that resonates deeply with one judge may receive a different score from another. It is essential to recognize this subjectivity and not be disheartened by any perceived inconsistencies in scoring. The real value is in the critique comments.

To sum it all up

CPC photo contests offer a nurturing and supportive environment where photographers can engage with fellow members, receive constructive feedback, and foster personal

growth. Although the judging may lack formal training or experience, the insights and perspectives provided by CPC members are valuable for enhancing creative expression.

By participating in these contests, photographers have the opportunity to contribute to the community, build relationships, and expand their artistic horizons. Ultimately, the subjective critiques within a club setting should be embraced as a catalyst for exploration, inspiration, and shared growth within our local photography community.

May Mini-Comp Winners

• Gardenscapes



Our judges scored 34 images: 17 color, 13 monochrome, and four photo manipulation. For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments, visit the CPC website ([color](#) | [monochrome & photo manipulation](#)). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Color - 1st Place

Keukenhof Tulips
by Paul Gemperline

May Mini-Comp Winners

• Gardenscapes



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Color - 2nd Place

Wind and Color

by Bill Neilson

May Mini-Comp Winners

• Gardenscapes



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Color - 3rd Place

Houmas Plantation

by Carol Krom

May Mini-Comp Winners

• Gardenscapes



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Color - Honorable Mention

Follow the Curve
by Rebecca Adcock

May Mini-Comp Winners

• Gardenscapes



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Monochrome - 1st Place

Best Friends
by Chuck Colucci

May Mini-Comp Winners

• Gardenscapes



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Monochrome - 2nd Place

Eye of the Beholder

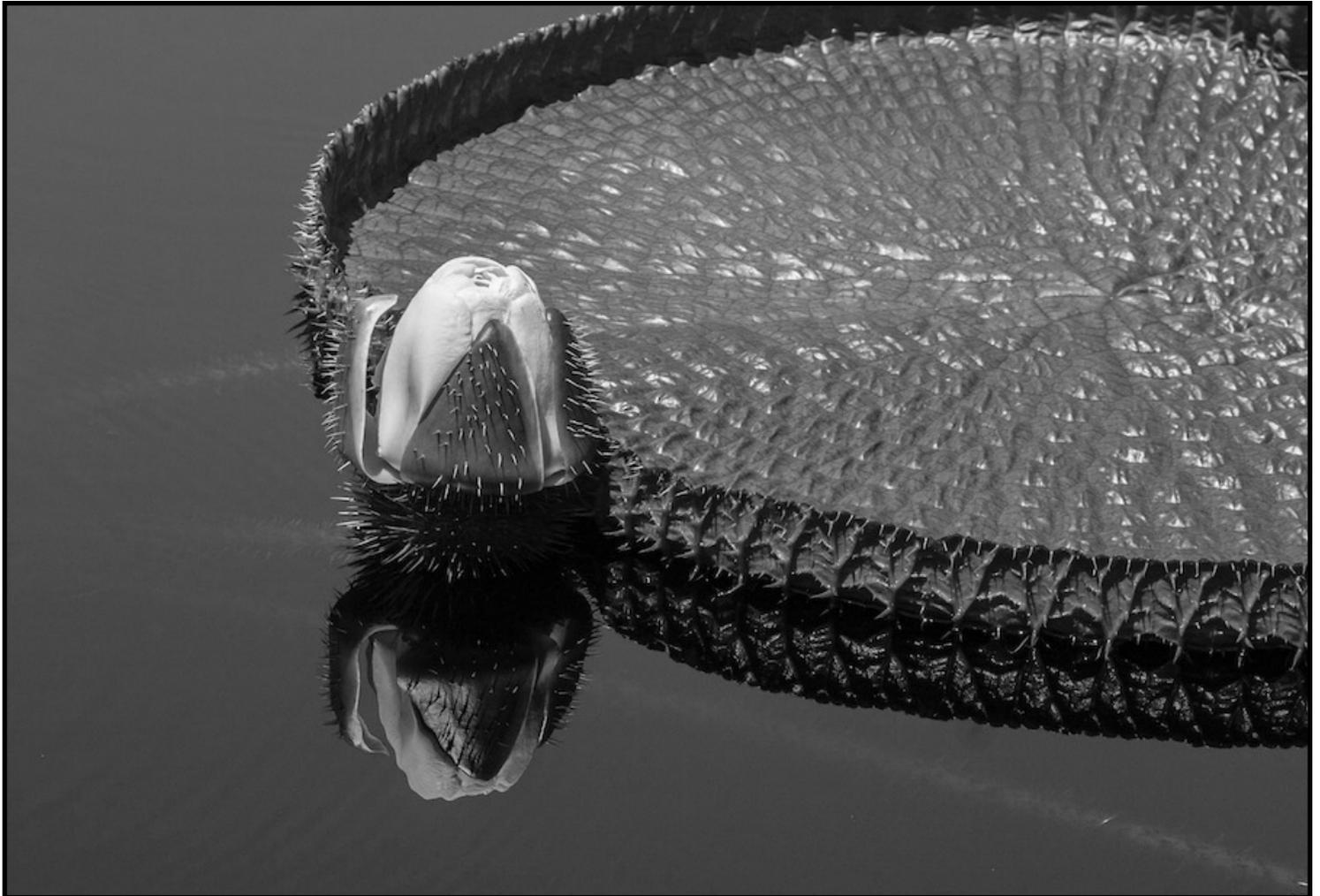
by Chuck Colucci

May Mini-Comp Winners

• Gardenscapes



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Monochrome - 3rd Place

Waterlily Bird

by Paul Gemperline

May Mini-Comp Winners

• Gardenscapes



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Monochrome - Honorable Mention

Tryon Palace Garden
by Carol Krom

May Mini-Comp Winners

• Gardenscapes



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Photo Manipulation - 1st Place

Bloom and Contrast

by Bill Neilson

May Mini-Comp Winners

• Gardenscapes



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Photo Manipulation - 2nd Place

Dreamy

by Rebecca Adcock

Accolades



& Awards



Several CPC photographers participated in the 2023 Craven Arts Council (Bank of the Arts) exhibit, ROY G BIV. Participating artists received a 12"x 12" cradled board, randomly drew (blindly) a color, and were asked to create an image using predominantly the color that they drew. Colors were: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet (purple), white and black.

Evie Henderson's photo, "Caloenas nicobarica," placed second in the exhibit. Caloenas nicobarica is also called the Nicobar Pidgeon. It is a near threatened species from the Nicobar Islands, India, and coastal regions of the Malay Archipelago. Evie photographed the one at below left at Sylvan Heights Bird Park.

Donna Hodgins also entered the exhibit. Her image, "Yellow Makes Me Happy," appears below right.





From the Members

Carol Krom shared this article by **Anthony Morganti**, a well known YouTube photographer. He produces outstanding instructional videos on photography with an emphasis on software. The article offers a different point of view. We hope you enjoy it.



Don't Be Like Me

Too often an imitator. Rarely an innovator. Contrary to popular belief, becoming a professional photographer does not often lead to the uncorking of creativity. Professionals are more often imitators and, less often, if at all, innovators.

I should refine this statement a bit. Some types of professional photography can be more creative than others. Fashion immediately comes to mind, but even with that, most fashion photographers are imitators most of the time and rarely do anything that is considered different or groundbreaking. Once a year, you might see something from someone unique and different. Most of the time, it's the same old, same old.

I started out being a professional wedding and portrait photographer. I was the type of professional that strived to give my client what they wanted, and most often, that meant they wanted their photos to look modern. Look like the latest stuff shown in magazines – the same old, same old.

So I was imitating. Cheezy 1980s double exposures? I did it. Over-Photoshopping the pictures so they looked early 2000s sterile? I did that. Mid-2000s selective color? I did that too.

Professional photography aside, for my personal photography, I took an interest in wildlife and did quite a bit of that. I venture to say that wildlife photography and sports photography

are very similar in that they both require patience and are technically challenging. Creativity and innovation aren't too common with those types of photography.

I mean, with wildlife photography, you hope the animal makes itself available to photograph, and hopefully, it and its surroundings are aesthetically pleasing, and it's doing something interesting. After that, the challenges are all technical.

The same can be said for sports photography. The athlete hopefully makes themselves available to the photographer while doing something interesting in an aesthetically pleasing frame. Everything else is technical. I'm not discounting that either – some of the most talented photographers on the planet are wildlife and sports photographers. They both are examples of photography that aren't creative in an innovative way. Instead, they're difficult technically, and if one can master wildlife or sports photography, it can be very rewarding.

Landscape photography is more of a challenge because every scenic area on the planet has been photographed ad nauseum. All too often, if you travel to one of those places right now, you'll enjoy the company of dozens, if not hundreds, of other photographers trying to make unique images – just like you.

Okay, what am I trying to say?

I'm not sure, but I do know two things:

1. You have a better chance of expressing your creativity via your photographs if you're not a professional. If you have to worry about taking pictures that will allow you to put a roof over your head, food on the table, and clothes on your back, you will more often be doing the type of photography someone else needs, not the type you want.



From the Members

2. You need to take photographs that are pleasing to you and not give one hot damn what anyone else thinks.

I've mentioned before that social media has a way of force-stirring everyone into a homogenous pudding. If we all chase likes and thumbs-ups and allow that to dictate our photography, we'll make similar images. Photograph what you want to photograph in a way that pleases you, and work with yourself to develop that. Don't worry about what others think.

One professional photographer that immediately comes to mind who was able to be a creative/innovative professional is Richard Avedon.

I have no first-hand knowledge of this, but I imagine that Richard Avedon, early in his career, had a lot of people whispering in his ear that photographing models and Hollywood stars with a simple, white or gray seamless paper backdrop and single strobe wasn't fashion photography or even good photography and doing so would get him laughed out of New York, Paris, Milan, Los Angeles, and Punxsutawney.

Fortunately, Avedon didn't listen. Instead, he developed his style and worked with it so that years later, we can enjoy photographs like these:



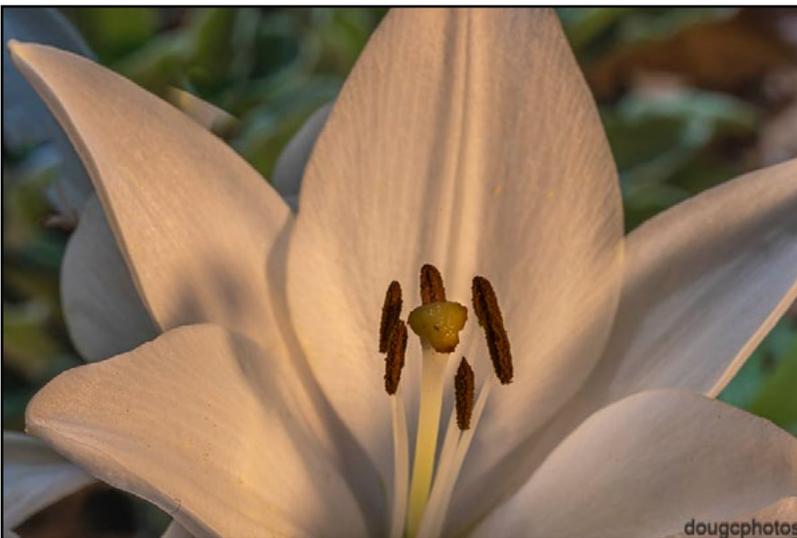
Don't think you must be a professional photographer to fully realize your creativity. Richard Avedon is an exception. He was able to push his uniquely creative style to the mainstream while earning a paycheck - you will have a better chance of being creatively unique by working with yourself devoid of monetary needs.

To be truly creative in photography means that what you're expressing in your photographs is coming from inside of you, uninfluenced by social media and anyone else, and I've found that I attain the most personal satisfaction when I photograph for me, myself, and I alone.

Try it - tap the unadulterated creative in you.

CPC Flash Workshop

Photos by Doug Carawan



CPC Flash Workshop

Photos by Karl Mielenhausen



CPC Flash Workshop

Photos by Debra Rothengast



CPC Flash Workshop

Photos by Evie Henderson



CPC FIELD TRIP

Heritage Farm Fest - Edenton



For the first time in history, Doug Carawan did not attend a field trip – something about a family reunion. A few members of the CPC went to the Heritage Farm Fest in Edenton on Saturday, June 3. Attendees included Robbin, Jeff Sherman and his wife, Carol and Richard Krom. It was a fun event with lots of things to see: old farm equipment, tractors, tools, etc.; demonstrations of cooking Lacy Cornbread, corn on the cob, rendering lard for kitchen use, metal working (blacksmith, but with pewter).

Kids were encouraged to participate and learn. There were small pens with farm animals like goats, ducks, lambs, and a cow. There were horses, mules, and donkeys pulling wagons around the area and pony rides for the kids. Food available included hamburgers, popcorn, homemade ice cream.

Afterward we all met at the Old Colony Smokehouse for lunch—a unique experience. No table service—cafeteria style. Delicious pork barbecue, brisket, and smoked turkey sandwiches. Outstanding potato salad and coleslaw. - *Carol Krom*



CPC FIELD TRIP

Heritage Farm Fest - Edenton





Events & Happenings

Next Monthly Meeting



Main Presentation

"Birds in Flight and Wildlife Photography"
- Vinny Colucci

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, July 5
Coffee & Cameras

Saturday, July 8
CPC Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, July 26
Camera Cafe

Thursday, July 27
Photo Exhibits in Wilson

Wednesday, Aug. 2
Coffee & Cameras

Wednesday, Aug. 30
Camera Cafe

Mini-Comp Topics

June	"Transportation"
July	"Doors/doorways"
August	"Reflections"
September	"Wildlife"
October	"Finding the light"
November	"Spirals"

Beginning with the July Mini Comp, the image submission deadline will change from the 25th to the 15th of each month.

Submit to cpcminicomps@gmail.com

Please attach image files to email. Do NOT place them in the body of the email. Please indicate "Mini-Comp" and the topic in the email subject field.

Newsletter Deadline



To submit content for the CPC Newsletter, email your content to [Dave Hilbert](mailto:dave.hilbert@cpcnc.org) by the Monday after the monthly meeting.

For example, if a club meeting occurs on Saturday, January 10, the deadline for the February newsletter would be Monday, January 12.



Events & Happenings

You can't win if you don't play



The Fall Major Competition is coming.



Bank of the Arts Exhibit September 2023

- Drop off photos Saturday, Sept. 2
- Reception during Art Walk, Friday, Sept. 8
- Pickup Sept. 30
- Bigger is better, NO 5x7 or 8x10 prints
- No previously displayed images
- Panoramas and canvas are highly encouraged.

- Everything MUST BE WIRED, NO EXCEPTIONS
- Unframed prints for sale are encouraged, size variations must be priced the same regardless for accounting purposes, e.g. 8x10 and 11x14 print of the same image must be the same price.
- Bank of Arts will be charging a 40 percent commission. This will INCLUDE tax and any credit card fees.
- MAXIMUM two framed images per photographer, No exceptions! In the event of a sale during the event, the photographer will be permitted to replace the sold image.

For questions, please contact [Rick Meyer](#)

New Members

Please welcome Allen Stroud as a new member of the Coastal Photo Club. Allen is a semi-retired healthcare consultant and recently took up photography as a hobby.

His interest really peaked after taking a Craven Community College course taught by Tom McCabe. That also prompted him to join the club.

Past photography experience was snapshots for written reports and presentations with a Canon Sure Shot and iPhone.

Allen currently shoots with a Canon EOS 2000D and is interested in nature and landscapes. His other interests include woodworking.



About the Coastal Photo Club

Aspire • Learn • Develop

We are providing a variety of opportunities for our members with the hope that each member will find something of interest. The best way to improve your photography is to get out and shoot. All of our community service projects are designed to help our members learn. We have a lot of opportunities for you to get involved. We hope to see you at some of our many events.

Coastal Photo Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 585
New Bern, NC 28563-0585
cpcnewbern@gmail.com

Club Officers & Board Members

President

Bob Dumon

Secretary

Carol Krom

Marketing & PR Committee

Alan Welch

Field Trip Coordinator

Robbin Haigler

Skills Development Committee

Becky Adcock

Member-at-Large

John Steady

Vice President

Doug Carawan

Treasurer

Cathleen McAnneny

Competition Committee:

Marty Pitcairn

Special Events / Community Service

Rick Meyer

Past President

Carol Krom

Member-at-Large

Karl Mielenhausen

Membership Benefits

- Web portfolio: Display and edit your portfolio at no charge on the CPC web site.
- Competition: Challenge yourself and receive feedback on your work through monthly competitions available only to members. Two juried competitions annually.
- Instruction: In-house, hands-on workshops with experts and novices, and presentations by visiting pros make meetings interesting and useful.
- Exhibit your work: The CPC is regularly invited to mount exhibits in galleries and other public venues. Usually, you can offer your prints for sale.
- Service: Give back to the community by doing what you love. CPC members have the opportunity to volunteer as photographers for local nonprofit events and organizations.
- Free newsletter: Our monthly newsletter offers photography tips and event information. Submit your own images for publication.
- Field trips: Enhance and practice your skills in new settings. Group travel makes it fun and affordable. Past trips include the Great Smoky Mountains, Duke Gardens, Wilmington, and the Pocosin Lakes Wildlife Refuge.
- Discounts: At redriverpaper.com/myclub, enter the club code "coastal" when placing your order. The club also gets a commission each time you order. Ballantyne Framing and Art in New Bern offers a 15% artist discount to active CPC members.

Coastal Photo Club News is the monthly newsletter emailed free to members and friends of the CPC. Items highlighting the activities of the club, news, opportunities, and awards, as well as items related to the photography field submitted by members are encouraged and welcomed. The experience and accomplishments of our members are diverse, but we encourage learning and sharing. Members' photos for our Club Gallery are especially encouraged. All image rights reserved by the photographers.



Treasurer's Report May 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE:		\$5,164.68
DEPOSITS:		
Membership		\$10.00
EXPENSES:		
Post Office Box:		\$194.00
Constant Contact:		\$19.00
Photo Society (PSA):		\$45.00
ENDING BALANCE:		\$4,916.68
NURSING HOME RESERVE:		\$404.47
AVAILABLE FUNDS:		\$4,512.21

Submitted by Cathleen McAnneny, 6/2/23



CPC Newsletter Archive

Missed a previous issue? The last 12 months of CPC Newsletters are available [online](#).

Member Photo Gallery Submissions

- Submitted photos should be in .jpg format.
- Please label your file with your name and the title of your photo. Titles add context or meaning to your photo. (Example: Jane Doe_Fall Leaves.jpg).
- Please send photos at 100ppi and 900 pixels on longest side to Dave Hilbert (email address available in CPC newsletter and emails).

Stay Connected

Follow Coastal Photo Club on our Facebook page. Thank you to Sue Williams for being our administrator:

facebook.com/Coastal-Photo-Club-284769591540129



Coastal Photo Club
Photography Videography



We also have a Facebook Group for members only. Join the group and feel free to ask questions and/or advice from your fellow photographers, as well as share your images.

- facebook.com/groups/402546217277888/





Visit Coastal Photo Club online
coastalphotoclub.com

SYLVAN HEIGHTS BIRD PARK

Sylvan Heights Bird Park is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Opportunity to see many rare bird species

Open Tuesday-Sunday | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
CLOSED MONDAYS

ADMISSION FEES:

- Adults (ages 13 to 61) \$12
- Seniors (ages 62+) \$11
- Children (ages 3 to 12) \$9



Photopass \$30

(in addition to the \$39 membership fee)

Allows photographers special access to the aviary park in Scotland Neck, NC.

shwpark.com

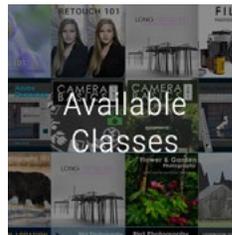
click on "Support Us,"
then click on the "Photopass" option.

ASAP

PHOTO & CAMERA

asapphoto.com

252.321.8888 • 3701 Charles Boulevard, Suite 100 • Greenville
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9-6 • Saturday: 10-3 • Closed Sunday



Looking to get started in photography or take your skills to the next level? ASAP offers a wide range of classes to meet your needs. Their exceptional instructors will help you learn new techniques and take your photography to new heights.

BUILD YOUR SKILLS

Coastal Photo Club
is a member of the
Photographic Society of America



- Courses for members
- Explore the PSA gallery



Offers a 15% discount for Coastal Photo Club members