

Pocono Photo Club

Newsletter

January 2020



*As much as an image
speaks of the things
seen, it also speaks of
the person who
photographs it.*

Jan Phillips

What are your
pictures going to say
about you in 2020?

Matthew Giambra to Speak at January Meeting

Brenda Tharp and Jed Manwaring stated in their book Extraordinary Everyday Photography that “Wonderful things are hiding almost anywhere, if you just look”. Along that line we often think that getting an extraordinary landscape shot or that one of a kind nature shot involves traveling to some distant land half way around the world. Not all of us can do that so how do we discover the extraordinary photos in our “own backyard”?

Enter this month’s speaker, Matthew Giambra of the Monroe County Conservation District. Matthew’s job involves providing programs to the public which revolve around nature. Since nature and landscape photography are some of his passions, his desire is to host photo walks and trips or any type of experience regarding photography.

Matthew’s presentation will feature some of the opportunities the Conservation District has to offer but also allow our club to offer some input on future programs the organization could host. The meeting will take place on January 21, 2020 from 7 to 9 pm in the Keystone building of Northampton Community College, Monroe Campus, 2411 Rt. 715, Tannersville, PA. 18372.

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You're Invited...

To the Gallery at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center
Where: The Brodhead Creek Heritage Center
1539 Cherry Lane Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

When: Thursday, January 9th from 5:00-7:00 PM

(Inclement weather date: Thursday, January 16th from 5:00-7:00 PM)

Why: To celebrate the installation of a new community-accessible art gallery, opening with the artwork of Pocono Photo Club members.

RSVP to help us know how many guests to expect, as well as for contacting guests in case of postponement.

<http://phlt.org/jan-artist-reception.html>

December Shoot Out ~ In Search of Snowmen



The Snowmen Of Stroudsburg



Eric Goins, Ann LeFevre, Hannable Parrish and Ken Winham (pictured above) had fun exploring the streets of Stroudsburg in search of snowmen on Saturday, December 14th. Shoot outs are a great way to meet other club members. Come join us on the next one!



Photos by: (top row) Hannable Parrish, Eric Goins, Ken Winham, and Hannable Parrish. (middle row) Ann LeFevre, Ken Winham, Hannable Parrish and Ann LeFevre. (bottom row) Eric Goins, Ann LeFevre, Ken Winham, and Eric Goins.

Looking for some ideas to keep your photographic juices flowing during the winter months? Here are some ideas from photographer Damien Demolder and the Digital Photography Review magazine:

With the nights and mornings pretty close together for the next few months, and the sun taking some time out to recoup, many photographers head indoors to escape the dark and the weather. Plenty of us are tempted to hang up our cameras until the Spring. Don't be one of those photographers! There are still plenty of things to photograph, provided you're prepared to use some imagination. Here are a few ideas to keep you shooting until the better weather returns.

STILL LIFE: Knives, forks and spoons offer interesting shapes and compositional challenges, and natural objects saved from the autumn, like nuts or dried leaves are great table top subjects. The supermarket is also filled with interesting fruits and vegetables, home stores and hardware stores stock nice cups, glasses and industrial looking bolts, screws, springs and fascinating sheets of metal/plastic/wood that will make interesting backgrounds. And don't forget all the oddities in your junk drawer! One of the nice things about still life is that you can take your time and there is usually no rush, so you can look really carefully, try things out and try again when it doesn't work the first time.

MACRO: An extension of still life, macro photography will test your ability to see details and to look more closely than usual. Successful macro photography is all about finding hidden textures, patterns and features of everyday objects as well as capturing tiny plants and animals that might otherwise escape our attention. Macro does require at least some specialist equipment: a reversal ring, extension tubes or an actual dedicated macro lens, and depending on how small you go, a tripod. Cable and remote release devices will help to avoid camera shake with dramatic magnifications and tethering software will allow a bigger preview to ensure anything is perfect before you trip the shutter. How about using the long winter months to teach yourself focus stacking so you can control exactly what is and isn't sharp in your images?

WINDOW PORTRAITS: It doesn't matter what time of year it is actually – daylight gliding through a north-facing window will always provide some of the best kind of lighting for natural-looking portraiture. On rainy and overcast days the light levels might be lower but that light will also be softer and more flattering. Position your subject close to the window if you want more contrast and further away for less, and try turning them 3/4 against the light to get a more dramatic effect. You can also add lighting nuances by using additional effects such as a diffuser or different colored reflectors on your subject.

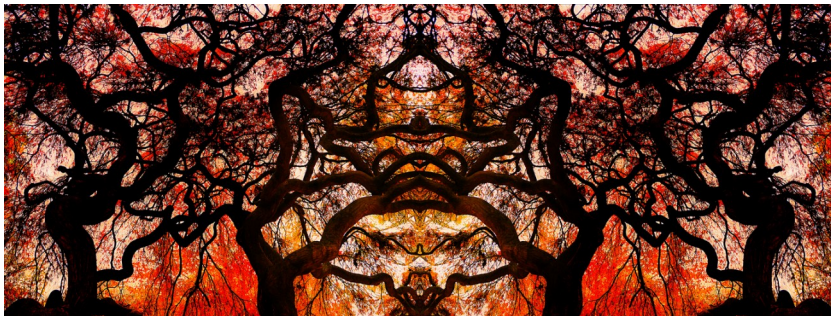
IMPROVE YOUR HOME STUDIO: When there's not too much natural light coming through the windows, or we need more for smaller apertures and lower ISO settings, it's a good time to think about alternative light sources. Domestic lights can be very useful for lighting in a home studio but they don't always deliver enough power, so sometimes we need to look at flash. You don't need to invest in a massive lighting system. A useful alternative to home studio lighting is to use a hotshoe flash unit – either from the manufacturer of your camera or from one of the many independent brands that have sprung up over the last ten or so years. What makes hotshoe style flash units so useful now is the mass of accessories and modifiers that can transform their light to be indistinguishable from that of a professional studio flash.

SUMMING UP: Winter is no time to take a hiatus from using your camera. All that's required for shooting in the winter months is a little imagination and sometimes a tripod to support those longer shutter speeds. So take a look around your home to see what or who you can aim your camera at. Take a trip to a florist, the hardware store or secondhand shop to see what treasures you can find. Or take advantage of some down time and clean out that junk drawer- you never know what willing models are waiting in there! The cold weather and shorter days are no excuse - keep on shooting and keep those creative juices flowing until Spring.

Did you enjoy this article but want a little more? You can read it in its entirety with illustrations and tips here:

https://www.dpreview.com/articles/9010501316/fun-winter-photo-projects-for-the-holidays?ref=pe_1822230_462654980_dpr_nl_406_13

This and That...



Congratulations to members Lori Fitcher and Dave Paulik whose photos were chosen to be displayed in the Allentown Art Museum's Focus 2020 exhibit. Photo above by Dave Paulik; photo on left by Lori Fitcher

Upcoming Workshops at PCP

The Pennsylvania Center for Photography is reorganizing the way they offer workshops as a way of dealing with the scheduling issues that are inherent in today's world. Rather than offering multiple evening workshops that cover 5 or 6 weeks, they are breaking the Foundations and Cognitive Composition workshops into smaller segments, each covering specific topics. For more information and descriptions of each course visit www.pacenterforphotography.org/workshops-at-the-pcp/.

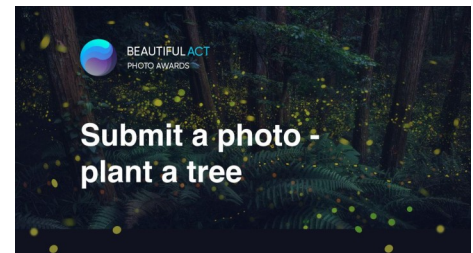
Next Shoot Out Planned

TOBYHANNA MILLPOND #1 ICE HARVEST SATURDAY JANUARY 25

The Tobyhanna Millpond Ice Harvest will be held on Saturday January 25, 2020. Sawing the ice starts around 9:00 am and cutting continues until approximately 2:00 pm. All are welcome to help cut ice, guide the ice cakes to the icehouse ramp, or just enjoy watching. PPC will be on hand to capture the events in our cameras for this month's Shoot Out. The event is organized by the Leonard/Saxe families with financial support from the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association. For updates on the ice conditions you can call the **Ice Harvest Hotline at 570-894-8205**. Millpond #1 is located at 646 Lakeside Dr. Tobyhanna, Pa.



Photo by Bob Hare



Viewbug, Skylum, Iceland Photo Tours, and the Eden Reforestation Project are joining forces to sponsor the Beautiful Acts of Photography contest, a competition they hope will have a direct social impact. For every photo submitted to this competition, trees will be planted in the most deforested areas of the world by the Eden Reforestation Project. The Eden Reforestation Project is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide fair wage employment to impoverished villagers as agents of global forest restoration. By the year 2025 their objective is to plant a minimum of 500 million trees each year. To participate in this mission to support the planet and promote creativity, submit your images before February 17, 2020. Entry fee: \$9 for the first submission, and \$3 for each subsequent submission. Categories include: landscape, nature, people, cities, aerial photography and trees. To learn more about the contest, organizations and how the entry fees will be used visit <https://beautifulactphotoawards.com/>.

THE ODYSSEY EXHIBITION

RETURNS TO THE

PENNSYLVANIA CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

MARCH 20TH - APRIL 5TH, 2020



AN OPEN EXHIBITION OF WHEREVER LIFE OR YOUR
PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY HAS TAKEN YOU.

**CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHY
OPEN UNTIL 2/18/2020**

ODYSSEY IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST UNIQUE SHOWS ON
THE EAST COAST WITH PRINT AND DIGITAL EXHIBITIONS RUNNING
CONCURRENTLY. LANDSCAPES, PORTRAITS, STREET PHOTOGRAPHY,
SPORTS, PHOTOJOURNALISM, ABSTRACTS, TRANSFORMATIONAL,
TRAVEL, AND WHATEVER ELSE YOU SHOOT ARE FINE!

WWW.PACENTERFORPHOTOGRAPHY.ORG

181 E. COURT ST. DOYLESTOWN, PA. 18901

215-989-2630

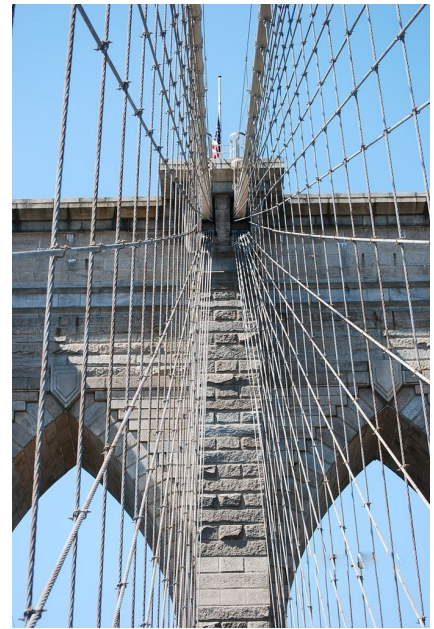


Photo by Mark E. Smith Sr.

~ COMING IN FEBRUARY ~

**Plans are in the making for a
Shoot Out at the**

**American Ribbon Factory on
Ann Street.**

**Watch our website for further
information.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Middle Smithfield will be hosting its annual "Person of the Year" Awards Ceremony on January 24, 2020 in Whispering Pines Banquet Hall at 7 pm. They are looking for one or two PPC photographers who would be willing to photograph the event. You do not have to be an official event photographer for this job. They are looking for photographs like the ones you might take at a wedding reception. Photographers would need to show up about 15 minutes before the event starts and stay until the awards are given. If you can help please contact Christopher Rain at crain@mstownship.com. Middle Smithfield truly appreciates your help!



Photo by John Anzivino

Thinking of Upgrading in 2020?

Here are 10 upgrades that'll take you so much further in 2020 than upgrading your gear:

Upgrade your skills. Learn a new aspect of the craft. Not seven of them: one. Learn to work with one. Really learn it. Go deep with it. Spend the year mastering it and not merely dabbling. We dabble too much.

Upgrade your understanding of composition and visual language. Don't look at 1,000 images a day on Instagram. Look at one or two albums on the Members Page of our website, study a shot on our Facebook page or Flickr account and figure out why they work and how you can replicate that effect or feeling. Don't end 2020 without understanding how to give your images greater depth, energy, balance, or story.

Upgrade your creative process. The photographer's brain is his/her best and strongest tool. Learn to think creatively, not merely technically. Want a great place to begin that study? Consider reading David DuChemin's book about creativity, *A Beautiful Anarchy* or other photographers' take on the subject. Pay attention to our monthly speakers and how they approach the process of taking and producing a picture. However you do it, learn what it means to be creative and how to upgrade that process for yourself.

Upgrade your willingness to make more focused work, to go deeper, to shoot a personal project that you push through even when it gets hard or on which you plateau during the boring bits that every creative project has once the initial spark fades and you're left alone, without the muse, to make the magic yourself.

Upgrade your ability to sit in one place and really see that place. Learn to quiet the voice that tells you you're missing something by not being somewhere else. Be present. Be receptive. There are a lot of things the camera can't do (especially when it comes to "seeing the shot"), things that are our job alone, and this is one of them.

Upgrade your ability and willingness to make more sketch images—more failures and what-ifs—and less worrying about what others think. Thanks to the wonders of digital photography, you have the freedom to see these experiments before you print them. If they don't work, you can delete them. But if they do, you may have discovered a new avenue of expression in your pictures.

Upgrade the gamut of your craft. Photography is so much more than a digital capture and some tweaks in Adobe Lightroom. Save the money you were going to spend on equipment and take a class or explore your manual and learn some of the capabilities buried in your camera's menu. Watch a Youtube video on a particular type of photography and attempt to do it yourself. Expand your photographic horizons.

Upgrade your output. I don't mean more posts on Instagram or other social media sites. Do fewer of those and slow down instead: apply your creativity to longer, deeper edits. Make a book. Print a monograph. Get your photographs off your hard drives and into your hands. Make them tangible. Participate in more PPC exhibits!

Upgrade your mentors. There is a world of astonishing photographers out there and they need not be alive to learn from them. Study the masters. Buy a new book (or download an ebook if you're trying to save space on your bookshelf) of photographs every month or so and really study them. Get a library card and check books out from the library. See if you can emulate some of their style and techniques in some of your pictures as a learning tool.

Upgrade your experiences. Forget that new camera: save the money and go to Venice. Or take a week off and make portraits, or go to the coast or the next town over, or go see your kids or your aging father. Do things that matter to you, that stir the wonder in you, that challenge you. Do it at home, or travel, it doesn't matter—but do it. And then photograph those things. Don't be seduced by the idea that the better camera will make better photographs; they'll just be sharper images of the same old stuff. Spend the money on living the experiences your creative soul longs for and explore those experiences with the camera you know.

The gear you have is enough and probably will be for quite some time. Upgrade the photographer instead. It'll be cheaper, less frustrating, and here's what matters: it'll be the one upgrade that changes both your experience of photographing and the photographs themselves.

This is a long list. Don't try to do it all at once. Don't let yourself get overwhelmed. Just pick one. Getting overwhelmed is a great way to get stuck. Give yourself the freedom to do one or two things and do them well, not all ten. 365 days is a long time. Pace yourself.

Excerpts from [For the Love of the Photograph](#) by David Du Chemin (with a few PPC edits by your editor!)

Executive Committee Meeting Notes ~ January 7, 2020

Executive Committee Meeting Notes- 1/7/2020

In attendance: Ann LeFevre, Eric Goins, Carrie Strohl, Bob Hare, Bill Keenan, Dick Ludwig

Sarina Cook was unable to attend but had informed the committee that a speaker was booked for the January meeting. Matthew Giambra of the Monroe County Conservation District will be giving the presentation. The “how-to prepare for an exhibit” and “navigating the website” talks we had planned will be rescheduled and included in other meetings.

It was made not that the blog written by Ray Roper should be renamed since he is not currently serving as president but all the information contained in them is useful.

The Winter exhibit has been hung and it looks great. The reception will take place on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2020 at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center from 5 to 7 pm. The exhibit will close on March 22, 2020 and members will be able to pick up their pictures from Mar. 23-27 during Heritage Center business hours.

The January Shoot-out has been scheduled for Jan. 25, 2020 at the Millpond Ice Harvest in Tobyhanna. Bob Hare recommends arriving early for great photos of the harvesters setting up at sunrise. Information about the Shoot-out on the home page of our website and on the Shoot-out page will keep the hours listed by the organizers: 9 AM for sawing and 2 PM for cutting.

Dave Strunk has contacted the club about display panels he still has stored at his business. Bob Hare will coordinate moving them to Stroud Foto where the other panels are currently being stored.

Our annual WWYD “competition” will be the subject of the Feb. meeting. Dick Ludwig has selected 10 photos for the members to alter to their liking and will send them out to the membership after the January meeting.

Ann LeFevre announced she has decided to combine the Photographer of the Month and the Curtain Raiser- the Photographer of the Month will now BE the curtain raiser. Susan Field will be January’s featured photographer. Discussion was also put forth on recognizing members who submit the most albums to the website. We will recognize the member who has put up the most albums during the announcements at our meetings now.

We are grateful that Ray Roper will remain our contact person with the Pocono Heritage Land Trust.

Middle Smithfield is looking for a few volunteer photographers to take pictures at their “Person of the Year” award ceremony. Ann is hopeful a few of our members will step forward to help with this request.

The Immigration Exhibit at Dunning Gallery will take place on January 30, 2020 starting at 5:30 pm. Several of our members have had pictures chosen to be exhibited in this show.

Karen Keenan is coordinating a Shoot Out at Castle Inn in Delaware Water Gap. Bob Hare is working on scheduling a Shoot Out at the American Ribbon Factory. Carrie Strohl had an idea for an “industrial” Shoot Out and will pursue the possibility of that.

Respectfully submitted: Bill Keenan

We're on the Web!

www.poconophotoclub.com www.facebook.com/groups/poconophotoclub/
