

Pocono Photo Club

December 2020

2020 ~ A Retrospective from the President's POV



Photographs
open doors
to the past,
but also allow
a look into
the
future.

Photographer
Sally Mann

They say hindsight is 20-20. Well, 2020 sure changed the way we see things! Our first two meetings went off without a hitch. In January we enjoyed learning more about Monroe County with Matthew Giambra from the Monroe County Conservation District, featured the photography of Susan Field as our first Photographer of the Month, and started celebrating members who actively contribute to the club by acknowledging John Anzivino and his contributions to our "Members' Photo Gallery" on our website. The only "glitch" we experienced in January was the cancellation of our Ice Harvest Shoot Out due to the "warm" winter we'd been having which prevented the ponds from forming enough ice to support the harvesting activities. January also holds the distinction of the only month we were able to exhibit publicly. The "Winter" Show was held at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center during January and the "Immigration" exhibit opened in Dunning Gallery at Northampton Community College in Tannersville. To be continued...



Inside this issue:

Member of the Month	2
Pandemic Story	4
Pohoqualine Shoot	5
Thankful	6
Pandemic Story	7
Next Shoot Outs	7
And So Much More!	8

You'll Be the Star at the December Meeting

While many folks are welcoming the end of a trying year, PPC is planning on taking a look at the positive things we experienced this year. December's meeting will feature a retrospective look at our transition from public meetings to Zoom, the expanding of our Shoot Outs from physical to virtual, the speakers who inspired us, members who made a difference, photographers who were featured as our Photographer of the Month, and how some of us found new ways to develop our photography without leaving the safe haven of our homes. We'll also spend time sharing pictures from the past or current year and why they are meaningful to us. And although we won't be able to share those Christmas goodies in person, we're encouraging everyone to have a cup of their favorite holiday beverage and a plate of holiday goodies by the computer when the meeting starts. For detailed instructions on how to share your photos visit the Meetings and Workshops page on our website: https://pcc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=349880&module_id=198893.

Member of the Month ~ Eric Goins



Eric Goins will step down from serving in an “officially elected” position on our Executive Committee this month and I felt it fitting to close out a year of special members by not only recognizing his contributions to this club but publicly thanking him for the many years he has contributed to it with his gentle and humble spirit. He has served as 1st and 2nd Vice President as well as President as regularly as the effortless way a revolving door rotates. One time when he was unable to attend a committee meeting we jokingly assigned all the tasks that needed to be done to him and sent him a mock-up report with the challenge to get busy. Knowing Eric, if we had persisted and claimed the bogus report to be true, he would have taken on every single one of those tasks! The King of Water Crowns, and a master of special studio lighting on subjects such as chess pieces and smoke, he also excels at landscapes, classic cars and is often out driving around searching for the next vista or object to shoot. He’s also the best ambassador a club could ask for handing out cards at places like the Garlic Festival and Farmers’ Market to anyone he sees with a camera. Personally speaking, if it wasn’t for Eric, my first year as president would have been rather bumpy without his advice and direction. Thankfully he plans to stick around and contribute on occasion or when needed in 2021. However, he’s looking forward to the freedom of not being on call on a monthly basis. Eric you’ve more than earned your “time off”! Thank you for your dedication and loyalty through the years to Pocono Photo Club. We wish you all the best in the days ahead.



2020 Retrospective Continued...

We moved on to February and revved up our creativity with a new round of “What Would You Do?” photos to process. Winter weather notwithstanding, we held two Shoot Outs in February; the first at the Castle Inn and the second at the American Ribbon Factory. The year seemed to be moving full steam ahead and we were looking forward to having Laurinda Faye speak at our March meeting. And then it happened! Covid 19 managed to bring the world and PPC to a screeching halt. While we were able to get out to Dutch Hill Preserves for our Shoot Out that month, NCC officially closed its doors which meant we were forced to cancel our monthly meeting. We did manage to highlight our Photographer of the Month and Member of the Month in a special edition of our newsletter but it meant we would not be able to see Laurinda’s presentation of her trip to the Pacific Basin. However, the Executive Committee got right to work and researched and practiced on-line meeting options with the final decision that this format could work for our club at large. In April we moved our meetings and Shoot Outs into the Virtual World and were rewarded by a faithful membership that came along for the ride and has stuck with us ever since. Believe me when I tell you that meant the world to the Executive Committee members! More to follow...



Virtual Shoot Out ~ November 21, 2020

What Are You Thankful For?

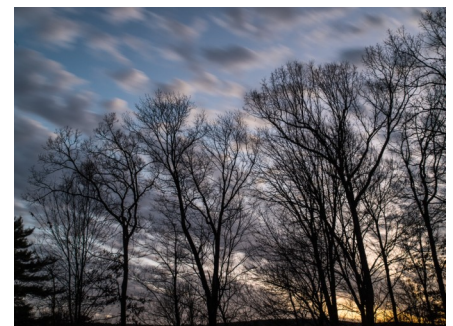


Photos by (L to R):

John Anzivino ~ My Home

Ann LeFevre ~ My Woodstove

Maurie Harmon~ The Beauty of Trees



2020 Retrospective Continued... Part 3

December 2020

One thing that we learned from this shift from the physical to virtual meeting world was that we were no longer limited by geography as far as our speakers were concerned. If the time zones worked together we could have someone speak from anywhere and we had fun taking advantage of that. If there were two heroes that rose up out of this challenge they would be Bob Hare and Sarina Cook. Bob has spent countless hours learning the fine details of Zoom so that our meetings run smoothly when we transition from screen to screen or host to host. Sarina had to adjust the speaker schedule as well since two of our planned programs involved on-site participation which was no longer possible since NCC was closed. Thanks to some connections with the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs and the Photographic Society of America, she was able to find new speakers to fill in those gaps and also open up a new spot for Laurinda to share her presentation with us. When we conducted our first on-line survey in June thanks to the efforts of Carrie Strohl, we learned you not only adapted to the new format, you had some great suggestions on how we could improve it and other ways we could use it.

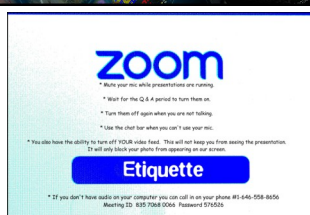
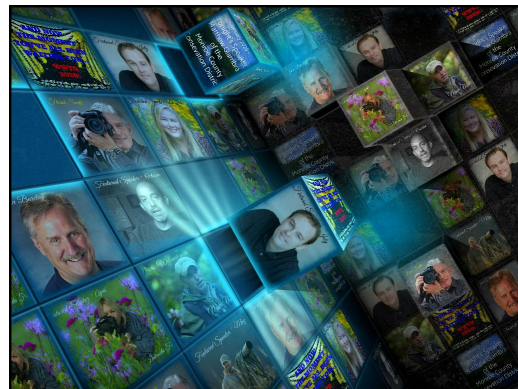
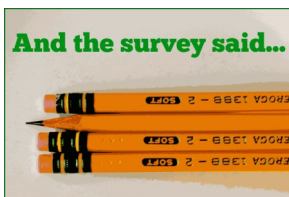
Our first Zoom meeting took place on April 21st and Laurinda made it look like it was as natural as an sooc shot from your camera. We held our first virtual Shoot Out as well, encouraging members to go "out" and "shoot" by taking pictures of what they saw inside or outside of their homes. While Sarina and Bob were navigating us through the speaker challenge, I was tackling a way to feature our Photographer of the Month, attempting Power Point to move the meetings along more smoothly, and finding new ways to acknowledge the Member of the Month. I can't say I'm the world's best videographer or a master of Power Point, but I am enjoying the challenge of making sure all our regular "features" are still being shared with the club. And I'm thankful that cyber world allows our photographers and members to get their pictures to me so that we can show off the immense talent this club has. Dave Trainer, Sam Prynda, Lori Hunny, Dave Paulik, Rick Nelson, Bob Baker, Ken Winham, Hannable Parrish, Lois Silver Zini and Laurinda Faye have filled our year with adventure, wonder, beauty and creativity with photos ranging from rusty cars to soaring eagles and clever photo-processing of all kinds in between! I'm also grateful for members like Gina Matarazzo, Karen Keenan, June Pepe, Nancy Spencer, Carole Ludwig, Connie Reinhart, Sarina Cook and Eric Goins who have shared their pictures on our website and their time and non-photographic talents with the club in a number of different ways. And finally, I am also thankful for our most unique "Member of the Month", Stroud Foto, who continues to support our club in any way they can and whenever we ask for it! While we may not be able to thank all of these people in person, we've been able to acknowledge them in our newsletter and during our meetings- something I feel is extremely important. To be continued...



*It's not what you
look at that
matters; it's what
you see.*

Henry David

Thoreau



How the Pandemic Changed the Way I Take Pictures



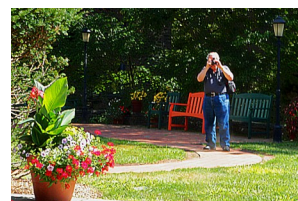
It was the beginning of March this year when I had a list of about a dozen locations I planned to visit and photograph during the coming spring. Those ventures included visits to New York City for the “Old St. Patrick’s Cathedral Candlelight Tour of the underground Catacombs.” I also wanted to photograph and climb “The Vessel” at Hudson Yards as well as “The Edge,” a glass bottom observation deck over 1,100 feet above the street. I also planned a trip to Washington, DC to photograph the Cherry Blossoms as well as the many amazing sites in our Nation’s Capital. An exciting springtime awaited me and my photographic pursuits. However, nature had other ideas. Along came the pandemic; COVID caused the shutdown of our country and all the locations on my list. I was now stuck at home, unable to travel near or far.

Disappointment took hold and I lost interest in photographing anything. For many weeks, I did not touch my camera. Soon, I began seeing photos from others, including Pocono Photo Club members, and read articles about photographing objects inside your house and around your property and neighborhood. So, my first photos taken during the pandemic were of the rooms inside my house, items in my home that were of special interest to me or my family, such as pieces of furniture, lamps and old trinkets saved from the days of my youth, followed by outside decorations on the lawn and backyard. That slowly became boring and by mid-summer, I was experiencing cabin fever. I had to get out and search for something new, while staying safe from COVID.

I ventured out on a few local hiking trails, first on my own, alone and safe from being indoors or around many other people, and eventually on a couple organized by the club. I found enjoyment in photographing nature along those trails, including trees, landscapes, flowers, bugs and small animals. Being outdoors was physically refreshing and seeing the beauty of nature was inspiring. I was enjoying photography again and when the fall foliage arrived, I was eager to get out and find scenic and colorful locations to photograph. While I was successful in that endeavor, the photograph included here is of a flower I saw while on the trail at the Kettle Creek Environmental Center in mid-July. I was attracted to it because the color popped and the bright green fern in the blurred background helped bring out the color of the flower. The center buds were reaching high into the sky toward the warm summer sun, searching for comfort and hopeful for a new and bright future, just like the rest of us during this year of pandemic horror.

With winter arriving soon, and less opportunity for outdoor photography and fewer family holiday gatherings, I will attempt to capture some macro and close-up photos of ordinary household objects. Not necessarily seeking great success or skill development, but something to spend my time during the cold, dreary months to come. As always, I continue to be motivated by the amazing photographs shared by the many fabulous photographers that make up the membership of this photo club. Thank you all so very much.

By John Anzivino

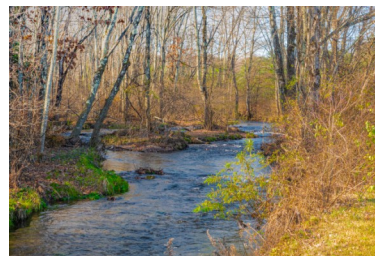
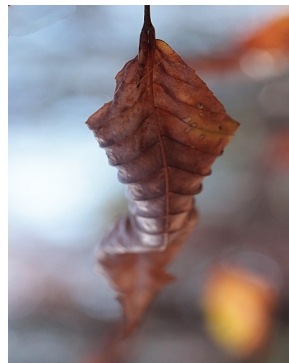
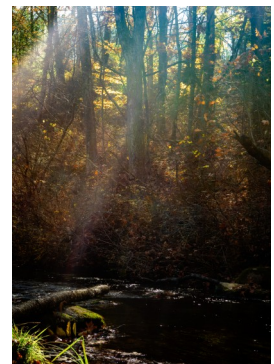
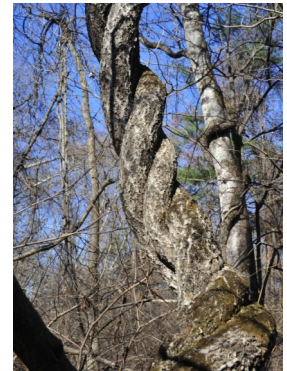


2020 Retrospective Part 4

At first it appeared that our physical Shoot Outs might become a thing of the past, but when Monroe County finally reached the green stage the Executive Committee felt we could find options that fit the CDC standards and resumed them. There is no shortage of wide open space to photograph here in our neck of the woods, so we explored locations that allowed us to be together and spread out at the same time. We held two shoot outs in conjunction with the Pohoqualine Fishing Association and the Pocono Heritage Land Trust, took to the shores of Minsi Lake in September, captured the rustic and rural sights of Rolling Hills Farm in July and hiked the Woodland Trail in Mt. Pocono in October. Our Virtual Shoot Outs became a nice compliment to the physical ones. We celebrated the Fourth with a red, white and blue theme, played with different points of view in September, photographed flowers in June, were on the lookout for circles in August, exposed the things hidden in our junk drawers in May and photographed the things we were thankful for in November. By far our most popular Virtual Shoot Out was the Fall Colors theme in October. I was delighted to so many members take part in that one.

As we became more acclimated to the virtual format, so did our speakers. In May we were enthralled by Scott Key's amazing bird photos and in June we were entertained by Ken Volpe's presentation on DSLR and Mirrorless Video shooting. In July we hosted our first "out of state" speaker with James Maher coming to us live from Brooklyn, New York where he introduced us to Street Photography. August saw us moving further west with Lisa Langell who was based in Arizona. She presented a program that challenged all of us to think of ourselves as artists when we lift the camera up to take a picture and included practical applications on how to approach taking more artistic pictures which we could initiate on our own time. As we moved into the Fall, we saw the return of two long-time "favorites"- Frank Smith, who spoke about photographing architecture in September and John Barclay, who talked about making creative choices and factors that inhibit those choices in November. Sandwiched between them was John Scalera who really caught our attention with his amazing wildlife photos- all taken in the confines of a zoo. We also hosted a webinar in September on macro photography presented by Mike Moats who made macro photography accessible to everyone by covering the basic gear needed and effective ways to process macro pictures. (Continued on Page 6)

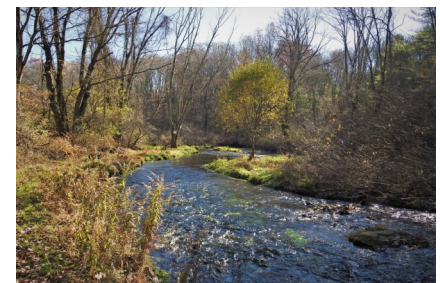
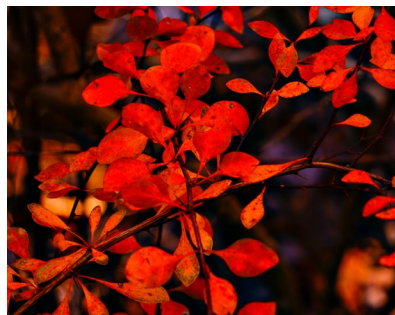
Pictures below by (top to bottom): Sam Prynda, Candace Roper, and Eric Goins.



Pictures top row (L to R): Ray Roper, Ann LeFevre, Bob Hare.

Bottom row (L to R): Al Smith, Nathan Smith and Larry Gugenheim.

**Pohoqualine Fish
Association
Shoot Out
McMichael's Creek
November 8, 2020**



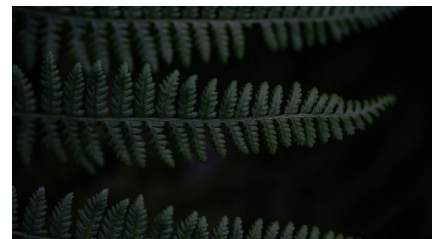
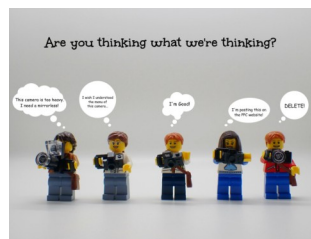
2020 ~ A PPC Retrospective from the President's POV Conclusion

When I look back over the year at the variety of our Shoot Outs and our speaker roster I can't help but think that although the lockdown and remote gathering looked bleak in the beginning, it has actually helped us to grow in some ways. We have had more members take part in Shoot Outs by expanding them into a virtual format. Others have suggested outdoor venues and set up Shoot Outs at those places. We have broadened our subject matter, and included more photographic genres in our discussions without having to rush home, rush through dinner and then rush out the door. Don't get me wrong, I do miss seeing all of you face to face! But I confess I like the less frenzied routine of pulling up a chair, clicking on the link and running the program with from a computer key. And I'm glad we were able to keep a two of our non-meeting events, our annual Scavenger Hunt with the Palmerton Photo Club and the Friends of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area calendar, up and running as usual in spite of red, yellow or green zones and drop-off logistics. While Zoom meetings are definitely a product of the 21st century I find there is something very nostalgic about them, especially when I see the screen filled with happy PPC member faces. I might be dating myself here (Might be? I am!), but the view reminds me of a program I loved to watch when I was a child. So don't be surprised if one of these nights, I pull out an old mirror and say, "Romper, bomper, stomper boo. Tell me, tell me, tell me do. Magic Mirror, tell me today, did PPC have fun at play?" I so want to do that!

The year 2020 is now coming to an end and for many it is a relief. Yes, it has been a stressful year in so many ways, but I am pleased that PPC was not one of those stressful components. Rather I think for many of us PPC offered a reprise from the madness, a chance to see the beauty around us and even inspired us to learn more about our craft. If hindsight is 20-20 what we saw in PPC this year is that you cannot limit a photographer's inspiration, imagination, growth or creativity because those things are not necessarily dependent on mobility or location, rather they are dependent on the one who desires them. When we were faced with an obstacle this year, we found a way to turn it into an opportunity. And those opportunities really paid off. It has been an honor for me to serve you as President of PPC this year and as we head into 2021 I'll be looking forward to finding even more ways for us to encourage, inspire and motivate one another to become the best photographers we can be.

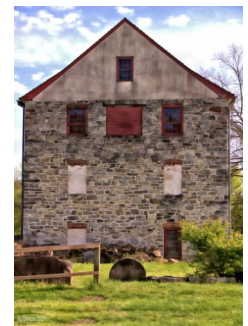
Ann H. LeFevre, President

This Month, The Photographer of the Month is... You!

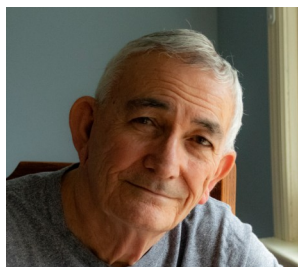


We think you are!

The Lego Photo Club wants to encourage you to upload your pictures to our website like these members did. From L to R clockwise: Bob Baker, Rick Nelson, Maurie Harmon, Nancy Spencer, and Kevin Furst.



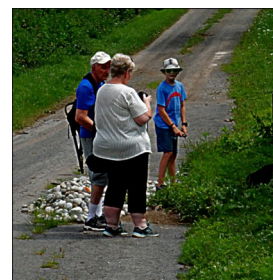
Taking Advantage of Covid 19



I can't say that Covid 19 has really impacted my approach to photography other than being restricted as to where I could go (during the shutdown earlier this year). However, during the early days of lockdown, I spent many hours learning Photoshop and I took some on-line virtual classes on lighting, so I guess you could say Covid afforded me the time to learn more about post processing and photography in general. I took these photos during the shutdown when I was attempting to apply the lighting techniques I had learned. Once everything started to open again I was glad to be back outside photographing again!

By Kathie Baker

*Kathy with Bob Baker
and Sam LeFevre at
Rolling Hills Farm.*



Join Our December Shoot Outs



Plans have been finalized for our Shoot Out at Skytop Lodge. Photographing the lodge's life-size gingerbread house and Christmas decorations will take place on December 13, 2020 at 3 pm. We will meet in the main parking lot before entering the building. Since this Shoot Out is taking place indoors, masks and proper proximity to one another will be required. The lodge also asks that we do our best not to disturb the guests or move the displays. Skytop Lodge is located at One Skytop Lodge Rd. in Skytop, PA. 18357. The main parking lot is to the right of the building at the end of the entrance road.

This month's Virtual Shoot Out will take place on December 19, 2020. Our theme will be "Holiday Lights" and the time, location and subject are all left up to you. You might shoot your tree lights, the neighbor's blow-up decorations or the festive glow of the street lamps on Main Street—it's up to you. So is the time of day that you take your picture and whether or not you'll post process them. After the Shoot Out mail 3 to 5 of your favorites to Ann at Olivetree@mail.com so they can be included in our newsletter and monthly meeting.

Mark your holiday calendar now, and join in the fun!

There’s More Than Pictures on Our Website!

Besides being a resource for any information you might need for club activities and events, our website is also host to four blogs. Our webmaster’s blog will walk you through the ins and outs of posting pictures to the website and other website related information. Ray Roper’s blog will help you with the technical aspects of photo processing, resizing pictures and insight on travel photography from his own experiences while Gina Matarazzo and Ann LeFevre’s blogs lean toward the inspirational and artistic aspects of photography. The following are excerpts from some of their past blog posts. You can locate these blogs using the pull down link on the top of our home page.



Do You Know My Name? By Bob Hare

One of the most valuable resources that our Pocono Photography Club has are our members - US! We each have our own unique experience and knowledge about the art of capturing images. Knowledge about equipment, composition, lighting, where to go to find interesting subjects, etc. Have you noticed how ten of us can go out to a location on a photo shoot and each of us captures unique images of the same scenes? We, each of us, regardless of our level of experience, has much to share with other members of our club.

Unfortunately, this opportunity is diminished if we don't know each other - at least a little bit - so that we can talk easily. What can be done about this? The easiest, most effective thing each of us could do would be to get a good face shot and post it to your member directory page. It can be cute or clever or artistic - *if it recognizable as you* so the rest of us can learn your name. But a plain old passport photo would be far better than nothing. Most of us probably knows someone with a camera who could capture our image. ;-> I'm betting the problem is not a lack of means or will. It is the difficulty of trying to figure out how to post a picture (and perhaps some information about yourself?). It's not obvious how to do this, but it is also not hard.

Here’s how to upload a picture to your profile. 1) *Log in* to the PPC Website. 2) Once you are logged in, click on your name in the upper right-hand corner of any web page. 3) Click on the **Profile** link. 4) Here’s the tricky bit: Click on **Membership Directory** in the **Personal Info** box. 5) Scroll to the bottom of the **Membership Directory** page and click on the **Select New Photo** link. You can upload a personal picture from your computer as you might with Facebook or other online service. What kind of picture should you choose for ID? Here are some examples to guide you:

			
Useless Default	Cute But Useless	Difficult To ID	Not A Pretty Picture - But Identifiable

It would also be helpful to add some brief biographical information on the same web page, but adding your picture to the directory will provide the most to help in getting others to know you.

To read the full version of this blog go to: https://pcc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=2507&club_id=349880&item_id=1939&pst=8342.



"Ray, if you were to reflect on your travels... where do you think is the most beautiful, the most charming, the most adventurous? We are getting a bit long in the tooth to visit everywhere, and I hate tours, cruises and other jokes on visitors. I'd like to visit a few places we could wander, hike, enjoy and meet friendly locals who are not haughty and greedy."

That question came to me recently from an old high school classmate and has been echoed in varying forms by numerous others over the course of our traveling adventures. The most common variant of the question is "what's your favorite trip?" Both Candace and I find that a really hard question to answer, because all of our trips have made a considerable impression on us in one way or another. So perhaps the best way to answer this question is to break down the memorability into some categories.



For sheer other-worldly, "we've never seen anything like this" virtuosity, Iceland has to be the only answer. The distinct feeling throughout our Icelandic trek was that we might have inadvertently landed on another planet. While the Laugavegur trail there traverses just 34 miles in the shorter version that we hiked, the variety of landscapes encountered is breathtaking, including lava fields, volcanoes, steaming fumaroles, snow fields, glaciers, raging torrents, extremely rugged canyons, black sand deserts, moss-covered mountains, and more. Seemingly all of these display garish colors that you would swear cannot occur in nature.



So, what could possibly top that? Well, it depends on your tastes of course, but if those tend to run toward magnificent mountain scenery, as mine do, there are really three contenders among our travels... Until... *recently* ...I would have remained loyal to my home state (*Colorado*) and its position among the top scenic wonders of the planet. But now I'm less sure. Both the Alps around Mt. Blanc (France, Italy) and the Canadian Rockies in and near Banff National Park are graced with soaring *big* mountain vistas that just somehow exceed, in sheer scale, the hills of home. Then there are the extremely rugged panoramas to be found in the Dolomite range of Italy. That would seem to capture all the possible categories of appeal we might wish to consider here, but there's one other worth contemplating, and that's the amazing Lord-of-the-Rings exoticness of New Zealand. There we find, albeit on a somewhat smaller scale than the Alps, the exquisite aspects of glacier-draped mountain ranges intertwined with large blue-water lakes, stunning miles-long fiords, and strangely exotic temperate rainforest gardens to be found nowhere else on earth. ...Oh, and the natives are extremely friendly and speak English with a most charming accent.



One last remark *on great places to travel that* I would be remiss in not mentioning. Machu Picchu thoroughly lives up to its reputation as one of the wonders of the world. Anyone who can contemplate managing the trip owes it to themselves to add it to their bucket list. For those readers even longer in the tooth than we are or less inclined toward hard physical activity, you should take note that all of the long treks we have taken can be broken into shorter sections, if that makes the destination more palatable or possible. So what are you waiting for?

All photos by
Ray Roper

To read the full version of this blog go to: https://pcc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=2507&club_id=349880&item_id=1471&pst=5080

Order
Yours
Today!





My Top Ten Favorite Photography Quotes By Gina Matarazzo

The one thing I love about quotes is that they help you express how you feel without thinking of the words yourself. I often add quotes to my photographs because I think it helps to develop a deeper meaning. It makes you think a little bit more about the photo. I am always looking for quotes on all aspects of life, whether it be quotes about happiness, summertime, or dealing with change. Quotes can have such a positive impact on a situation we are going through and give us hope and courage. In a later blog, I will discuss my technique on determining what quote to add to my photo. For now, I want to share my top ten favorite quotes on photography and why they hold so much meaning to me.

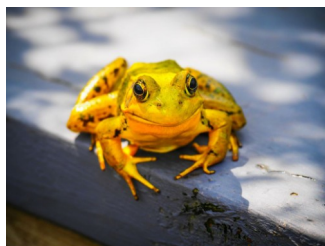
1. "Photography is the story I fail to put into words." -Destin Sparks
2. "The best thing about a picture is that it never changes, even when the people in it do." - Andy Warhol
3. "To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them." - Elliot Erwitt
4. "I really believe there are things nobody would see if I didn't photograph them." -Diane Arbus
5. "What I like about photographs is that they capture a moment that's gone forever, impossible to reproduce." -Karl Lagerfeld
6. "When people ask me what equipment I use - I tell them my eyes." - Anonymous
7. "My life is shaped by the urgent need to wander and observe, and my camera is my passport." -Steve McCurry
8. "Great photography is about depth of feeling, not depth of field." -Peter Adams
9. "Once photography enters your bloodstream, it is like a disease." - Anonymous
10. "Which of my photographs is my favorite? The one I'm going to take tomorrow." -Imogen Cunningham

A few years ago, I took a photo of a single raindrop on a leaf. I loved it, and it was my favorite. A few months later, I photographed a staircase at a local lodge, which became my favorite photograph. Last summer, I snapped a seagull flying perfectly between two beams of a pier, and that then became my favorite photograph. Since then, I have taken so many more pictures and have at least twenty more favorite images. Photographers are always perfecting their game, and their list of favorite photographs their list of favorite photographs is forever changing. Thanks for reading!

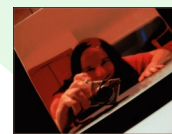
All photos

*By
Gina
Matarazzo*

To read all of Gina's comments on her favorite quotes and the complete blog visit: https://pcc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=2507&club_id=349880&item_id=2818



Jeff and I have very different ways of approaching vacations. He likes to have no plans at all. If he sleeps half the morning away, so be it! I like things “somewhat” planned. I like to see new things and new places so while I’m not up at the crack of dawn to get out and get going, I do like to have an idea of what I’d like to do that day and be doing it before noon especially if it involves picture taking (which it usually does!).



Like vacations, photographic excursions- be they a walk around your yard or a trip to another country- take some mental preparation. John Batdorff wrote, “Prior to any photographic journey I try to visualize what sort of images I’m hoping to achieve. This mental shot list helps me create a plan of attack when an opportunity presents itself. Visualization (*not the spiritual kind!*) is an excellent mental exercise and tool for composing an image.” I found this to be true the other day. I was in search of a picture that could illustrate the words “ice sculpture”. I knew a particular spot up on Route 209 heading towards Milford where some amazing ice formations have appeared in past winters so I made a plan to visit that spot after I ran a few errands. In my mind I started composing a shot or two, but on my way there, on a whim, I stopped at another spot with smaller, less impressive formations, and took a few shots. It’s a good thing I did! The spot I’d originally planned to shoot was virtually ice-less.

How many of us have planned a vacation and expected to capture beautiful sunny day photographs while there only to arrive and find the weather is not about to cooperate with us? Flexible thinking allows the photographer to reshape his expectations. Of course everyone wants a landscape with a blue sky and sun kissed trees. It’s a very traditional approach to that form of photography. But what if it’s a cloudy day with a slight possibility of rain? Flexible thinking asks, “This view is not usually photographed on a cloudy day. What if I compose this shot in black and white instead?” And voila- a dramatic view of stormy clouds over the mountains is born.

So to paraphrase Hamlet, “To plan or not to plan? That is the question!” The answer probably lies somewhere in between yes, and no. Yes, it’s great to have a plan, an idea, a goal to accomplish when you know you will be taking pictures. It doesn’t hurt visualize or plan pictures ahead of time. But no if you are locked into that plan so deeply that you miss whatever opportunity presents itself when the goal cannot be achieved. If I hadn’t stopped at the first ice formations when I saw them, I would not have gotten an ice picture at all. Did it match the picture I had in mind? No. Did it help me accomplish my goal? Yes. While it is not as disappointing as being on vacation with lousy weather, it is an applicable illustration. And it might just be a great illustration for life too!

To read Ann’s full blog visit:

https://pcc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=2507&club_id=349880&item_id=1477

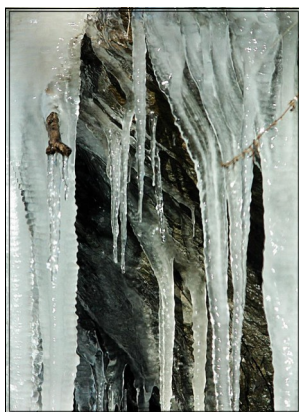


Photo by Ann LeFevre

Executive Committee Meeting ~ December 1, 2020

COMING IN 2021

Ken Volpe on
Astrophotography
at our
January meeting.

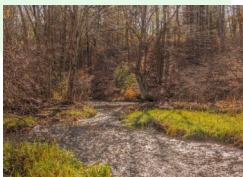
New Outdoor
Shoot Outs

More
inspirational
and educational
speakers

A new feature
in our Newsletter
to be revealed
in January

New virtual
Shoot Outs
including
a virtual
Shoot Out scavenger
hunt

And helping out
East Stroudsburg
Celebrate
its 150th
anniversary!



*Pictures
By
Bob Hare*

PPC Executive Committee Meeting Notes – 12-1-20

In attendance: Ann LeFevre, Sarina Cook, Ray Roper, Sam Prynda, Bob Hare, Eric Goins, Dick Ludwig, Bill Keenan, John Anzivino, and Larry Gugenheim

Ann LeFevre noted that the online voting process is underway for the 2021 Executive Committee, and that we should advise members to cast their votes before the December 13 deadline. We will send out regular email reminders to members. There was some debate about how to determine if we have a quorum, per the PPC bylaws, to make the vote official. The decision was to wait until we are closer to the end of the voting process to determine that. (The committee also determined that we might have to edit or revise the current bylaws.)

Sam Prynda let the committee know when he has verified the proposed date for our holiday shoot-out at the Skytop Lodge. He will follow up with the Skytop management and let us know ASAP, so we can get that information out to members. He is also checking to see if tripods will be permitted, and if there will be any limit on the number of people who can be there for the shoot-out.

Ann noted that Nancy Spenser had offered an alternative to Skytop – the Christmas display at Quiet Valley Farm – just in case the Skytop event isn't affirmed. Other Christmas display options include Steelstacks in Bethlehem, Jim Thorpe, or Easton. Nancy Spenser will also be taking responsibility for setting up several PPC shoot-outs in 2021.

The committee also wants to remind members to submit photos for display during the December general meeting. We're asking members to submit up to three "favorite photos" of the past year with a short description of each one. We will send out email reminders to members to get their photos in by December 13. Details are available on the PPC website.

Sarina Cook reported that the schedule of presentations for 2021 looks good. We have presenters scheduled through May 2021, starting with Ken Volpe on astral photography in January. And we have a few other possible speakers who have not been finalized yet. Also, we are still uncertain as to when we can go back to in-person meetings and presentations.

We discussed the possibility of another "What Would You Do" meeting, where PPC offers several photo samples and members are asked to do whatever post-processing work they think might make a better photo. This type of meeting has been popular in the past, but we might not be able to fit it into the schedule this year.

The committee also discussed current membership fees. It was noted that we haven't deleted any lapsed members in 2020 so as not to add to issues related to the Coronavirus. But we also noted that this might have an impact on our member count for the voting process this month. Dick Ludwig reported that our current income and available revenue is still good.

Bob Hare offered to work with Dick to get up to date on our recently upgraded website, and also to ensure that our official membership records are up to date, as well.

Dick Ludwig also noted that the Pocono Arts Council might be having some financial difficulties now that it is no longer supported by a grant from the PA arts council, and he suggested that we make a donation if we could. The Executive Committee approved this action.

Submitted by Bill Keenan, secretary

We're on the Web!

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