



VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2 ~ FEBRUARY 2019

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©Linda Stager

GCPC "Travels" with Clyde Butcher

For the February 12, 2019 program, The Grand Canyon Photography Club will feature a DVD presentation showcasing the work of well-known conservationist and landscape photographer Clyde Butcher. *America the Beautiful: The Monumental Landscape* will begin at 7 p.m. at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Butcher began his career as an architect. Lacking in drawing skill, he learned photography as a means to present his architectural models. Inspired by an exhibit of Ansel Adams work, Clyde began photographing landscapes in black and white.



Searching for more commercial success, Butcher switched to color film and began using a 5" x 7" view camera. By the 1970s he had photographed landscapes in California, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Ohio, and Hawaii.



©Clyde Butcher

Clyde moved his family from California to Florida in the late seventies, and after briefly dabbling in compositing landscapes with a sci-fi feel, he began to develop an appreciation for the Florida landscapes including the Everglades and swamps.

After the death of his teenage son in a tragic accident in 1986, Butcher committed himself to exclusively working in black and white and using an 8" x 10" large format camera. The serenity of the Big Cypress National Preserve helped him find peace and a deep appreciation of nature. He has gained national recognition as a conservationist and been involved

with numerous award-winning PBS documentaries on the Florida environment.

Mr. Butcher uses a variety of cameras that range in size from 4" x 5" to 12" x 20" and is able to produce prints up to 5' x 9'. Clyde believes that creating these large images helps people feel "one with the photograph." He hopes people will want to experience the real thing after viewing his landscapes and wants to "educate people that the environment is really important and they need to actually experience it themselves."

Clyde has authored a number of books, including: *America The Beautiful: The Monumental Landscape*, *Big Cypress Swamp: The Western Everglades*, and *Celebrating America's National Parks*. He has been awarded the Ansel Adams Conservation Award and Distinguished Artist Award. Visit clydebutcher.com to learn more and view his breathtaking black and white landscapes.



©Clyde Butcher



©Clyde Butcher



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda and I just returned from a self-guided trip to Italy. We're both in our seventies, and we have never quite taken a trip like this one, certainly not at our age. We know that not everyone can afford the time or money to do this, not by a long shot for sure. Indeed, we were not sure that we could do it either, to be quite honest. But, the retirement treasury for now seemed to say, take the chance, and so we did. We walked around four cities, for three to four days each, mostly to ruins, shops and as many museums and art galleries as we could find. Only a few arranged tours, and those were on foot as well. So, walk and walk we did. We are thrilled and we are exhausted. (Also, lingering brain fog from the six-hour time difference.) The real limiting factor for us was our energy reserves and how much daily walking our legs could take. The answer is: not as much walking as they could sustain just a few years ago. Lesson to pass on: If you want to go on a trip with a lot of walking, either do it when you are a bit younger than we are or stay in better physical shape than we are. I was a runner for decades, but you cannot keep that fitness in the bank. One has to stay more active.

I am sorry I missed Linda Stager's eagle show at the January meeting, but I am looking forward to Clyde Butcher's DVD at the February meeting. Mr. Butcher is in many ways a newer generation Ansel Adams, with very large format film and inspiring landscape pictures, some of which are just awesome. I hope these provide some inspiration for our own photos.

There is an interesting photo show coming to the Rockwell Museum, in Corning. "American Portraits" by Yousuf Karsh, on loan from the National Portrait Gallery, in Washington, DC. The opening, which I hope to attend, is Friday, February 8, 2019, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. The show will run from February 8 - May 8, 2019. Included will be portrait photos of Grace Kelly, Andy Warhol, Albert Einstein, and Martin Luther King. It is said that Yousuf Karsh

believed that "the heart and the mind are the true lens of the camera," and that he developed a genuine rapport with his subjects to fashion his portraits. (Rockwell Museum Members: Free | Not-yet-members: \$10 | Students: \$5; RSVP required by Thursday, February 7th. <https://rockwellmuseum.org/events/yousuf-karsh-opening-reception/>)

Finally, Linda Stager went to Iceland, just after her eagle presentation at the Club. Yep, in the middle of January, near the Arctic Circle. I am looking forward to stories from her on this. She can be followed on Facebook for several images and information about her self-guided trip.

David Ralph



© David Ralph-Wildlife in Milan, an iPhone snap. In the Piazza del Duomo (Cathedral Square).



The Grand Canyon
Photography Club

2019 Officers:

President: David Ralph

Vice President: Diane Cobourn

Treasurer: Gary Thompson

Recording Secretary: Paul Bozzo

Corresponding Secretary:
Sharon Connolly

Directors:

2018-2019:

Nancy Bickham, Linda Stager

2019-2020:

Mia Anderson, Med Barton

**Committee
Chairpersons:**

Newsletter: Bruce Dart

Membership: Gary Thompson

Exhibits: Bruce Dart

Website: Mia Lisa Anderson

Publicity: Lonny Frost

For more information, please
contact:

David Ralph -

E-mail: president@gcphotoclub.org

About The Banner Photo

Linda described her experience capturing this photo in the January issue of *Mountain Home* where it was featured on the "Back of the Mountain" page.

"When I looked out the window before sunrise I knew that it would be a good day to venture to the countryside. It had snowed overnight and all of the new snow was clinging to the trees. It was a winter wonderland! And as the sun rose, the weather kept changing. It snowed off and on. The fog rolled in. And the skies were full of watercolor pastels. Coming down the road here, I hopped out of the care to take in the scene. And to snap this picture."



©Linda Stager "Watercolor Skies"

**February Meeting
Refreshments:**

**Snacks: Paul Bozzo
Beverages: Gerry Bailey**



Minutes of the January 8, 2019 GCPC Meeting

Vice-president Diane Cobourn stood in for David Ralph who was somewhere in Italy! Thirty-nine members and guests attended the meeting. Treasurer Gary Thompson acknowledged three members who contributed more than the required \$20 dues for the new year. The minutes were accepted after a motion by Mia Lisa Anderson; Sharon Connolly seconded. It was announced that the annual photo club exhibit would take place this coming November.

Diane introduced member Linda Stager who presented a program "Shooting America's Bird with Your Camera." Linda told us that in 1983 there were only three known eagle nests in Pennsylvania. In 2018 there were approximately 250! Linda explained much of the etiquette of seeking out and capturing eagles – mostly common sense things including respect for fellow photographers and the birds. She said that she uses a shutter speed of 1/1200 or faster at F8 with an extremely high ISO like 12,800! Her favorite place is at the Tioga Lake tail race. The eagles sit in the nearby trees and Linda waits for them to go fishing in the large pool. It is necessary that you learn by practicing (over and over) how to track an eagle in flight. She uses lenses near 600mm. The audience was invited to check out her three cameras with their own long lenses.

Gary led the critique of "Winter" images. There were 10 submissions and three came from vacationing members in sunny Florida. Mia added an icy ambiance to her still-life by using coconut flakes for ice on the rim of her cocktail glass. Ken Meyer treated us to crisp mountain air with reflections on Donner Lake. Next month's critique subject is the wide open "Still Life." "A still life (plural still lifes) is a work of art [or photograph] depicting mostly inanimate subject matter, typically commonplace

objects which may be either natural (food, flowers, dead animals, plants, rocks, or shells) or man-made (drinking glasses, books, vases, jewelry, coins, pipes, and so on)." Wikipedia

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Bozzo

Treasurer's Report	
Beginning Balance	\$1,036.46
Cash IN	
2019 Dues	\$355.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	\$3.00
Ending Balance	\$1,388.46
Respectfully Submitted	
Gary Thompson, Treasurer	

2019 Dues Are Now Being Accepted

Individual: \$20.00

Family: \$35.00

Please bring them to the February
meeting or mail them to:

GCPC Treasurer

Gary Thompson
285 Owen Hollow Road
Big Flats, NY 14814

Thoughts on Still Life Photography

The critique theme for February is "still life". Obviously this is a photographic genre that is near and dear to my heart so I thought I would contribute some thoughts and techniques on the subject for this month's newsletter.

Contrary to what some people think, this type of photography does not involve photographing a living subject when it is "still". Believe it or not I have seen such examples posted in the still life category on 500px. According to Wikipedia, "still life photography is a genre of photography used for the depiction of inanimate subject matter, typically a small group of objects." In this genre, the photographer chooses the subjects, arranges them, selects a background, chooses the lighting, and makes an image. In other words, the photographer has total control. Still life is more about creating than capturing.

Choosing a Subject

In still life photography, subject matter is wide open. Most anything that can be arranged into a pleasing composition will work. Food and beverages have become two of my favorite subjects, but others include jewelry, kitchen items, knick-knacks, clothing, flowers, even camera equipment. The only limit is the photographer's imagination.



©iPod Overhead on Old
Cookie Sheet-MLA

and pieces of tile. Black plexiglass makes a wonderful reflective surface as do mirrors and regular glass. Pieces of dark or white material can be



©Black Plexiglass-MLA

Equipment

Most any camera can be used in still life photography, even a smart phone will work, especially for overhead shots. As for lenses, 50mm and macro lens are very good at capturing details and allowing for shallow depth of field, but I have also used my 18-55 kit lens with pleasing results.

Background

Items with texture work really well. Some of my favorites are old cookie sheets, weathered sections of wood and pieces of tile. Black plexiglass makes a wonderful reflective surface as do mirrors and regular glass. Pieces of dark or white material can be temporarily hung on a wall or door to create a simple background. Also, crumpled up aluminum foil can add interesting bokeh to an otherwise unimaginative background.

Lighting

Many photographers prefer natural light. A window (especially a north facing window) can provide wonderful natural light for a still life. The direction of natural light has to be chosen as well. Side lighting highlights texture so depending on the subject, this can be a good choice.



©Mia Lisa Anderson



©Foil Bokeh-MLA



©Window Light-MLA

Backlighting can add nice rim lighting or a glow through a bottle. Light from the front tends to make things look flat and less interesting so I usually stay away from this type of light.

The downside of using natural light is its limited availability. Using artificial light such as an off-camera flash or strobe makes it possible to photograph at any time of the day or night. Another advantage of flash photography is it gives the ability to capture motion so it's possible to add an extra dimension to the still life image.

Flash equipment doesn't have to be expensive. I own 2 speedlights that I purchased for around \$30 each. Using your flash off camera does require a remote trigger which can add to the initial investment, but makes it much easier to synchronize the flashes. Overcoming my initial dislike of flash photography and getting the flash off camera has really raised my "still life photography game."

Light painting is another lighting option. With this technique the photographer begins with a darkened room and lights the image using a flashlight or similar light source.

Diffusion

No matter what type of lighting is chosen, making it softer will improve the image. If window light is the source, a sheer curtain can be placed in front of it to soften the light. Diffusion material can be purchased, but I often make my own. I took a 20 x

30 piece of white foamboard and cut out the middle, leaving about a 2 inch frame. I attached an old white shower curtain liner to the frame with white duct tape. This gave me a large, lightweight diffusion panel. I used a similar process to make a pair of strip lights with cardboard boxes. An old white sheet or parchment paper will also work.

Angle

The three best angles for photographing still lifes are overhead, 45 degree, and straight on. Subjects can dictate which angle is best. I have used all three in my work, but probably choose either straight on or 45 degree unless I'm using my iPod, then I do more overhead work.

Still Life is a fun photographic genre. Give it a try and enjoy.

Mia



©Flash Splash-MLA



©Flash with Diffusion-MLA



©iPod 45 Degrees-MLA



©Straight on-MLA



GCPC 2019 Calendar of Events

Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month
at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center unless otherwise noted.

Mini-Solo Shows at the Native Bagel, Central Avenue, Wellsboro:

February - Paul Bozzo

The Warehouse Theatre: Various Members

Paul Bozzo, Linda Stager, Medford Barton, Bernadette Chiarmonte Brown

Please contact Bruce Dart at bdphoto@ptd.net if you are interested in displaying your photos at the Native Bagel or if you have images suitable for display at the Warehouse Gallery.

Programs and Themes:

February 12: DVD Program-Clyde Butcher. Critique: Still Life

March 12: Wildlife Photography presented by Medford Barton. Critique: Animals/Critters

April 9: Macro Program TBD. Critique: Intentional Camera Movement

May 14: James Montanus TBD. Critique: Macro

June 11: Annual outing at Ann Kamzelski's. No Critique

July 9: Walkabout in Wellsboro. Critique: Images from Ann's

August 13: Hiking Outing led by Paul Bozzo. No Critique

September 10: Black & White Photography presented by Bruce Dart. Critique: Landscape/Nature from hike

October 8: Using Drones presented by Linda Stager & Gary Thompson. Critique: Black & White/Monotone

November 12: Lightroom and Travelogue presented by Ken Meyer. Critique: Halloween

November: Biennial GCPC Member Exhibit at the Gmeiner.

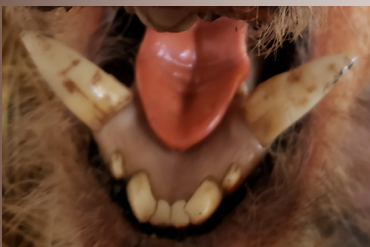
December 10: Annual holiday party & slideshow of member images.

What is this? Send your guess to bdphoto@ptd.net

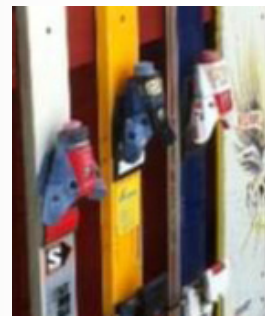
Mystery Macro

How observant are you?

No Guesses:
Ski Equipment



©Jan Keck



©Jan Keck

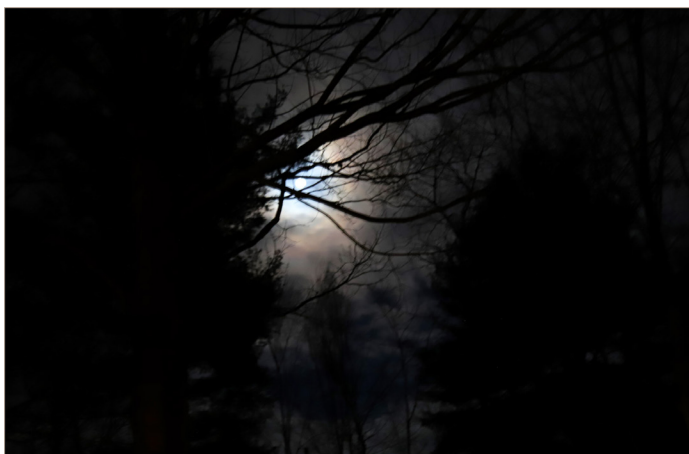


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January Critique: Winter



©Mia Lisa Anderson



©Paul Bozzo



©Bob Bair



©Nancy Bickham



©Bruce Dart

January Critique: Winter



©Diane Cobourn



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