

Framing: A Crash Course

Professional photographer Bruce Dart, a studio owner for more than 40 years and charter member of the Grand Canyon Photography Club, will present a program on "Framing for Exhibition" for the April 8, 2025 club meeting. The presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center in Wellsboro after a short business meeting.

"It is about Presentation, Presentation, Presentation," Dart said. "A very good photograph will look even better with framing and/or matting that compliment it and set it off."

Bruce will show examples of framing and how it was done. He will also demonstrate how to make a digital mat so that when the photo is printed it will look more finished.

Both wooden and Nielson metal frames come in the black that will look great on the walls for the summer show. And both, with very few tools, can be put together pretty easily. For both he will also demonstrate how to assemble the frames.

"With the right presentation," he added, "the black frames on the light colored gallery walls will make the images 'pop!' It will enhance the photos."

Also included will be a discussion of Tony Corbell's premise of an "accurate" exposure versus an "appropriate" exposure.

Mr. Dart is a member of several professional organizations, including the Professional Photographers of America where he earned the Certified Professional Photographer competency in 1987, which he held for over 30 years. More recently, in 2003 he was awarded the Photographic Craftsman degree, earned in part by presenting programs about photographing high school seniors to other professional photography organizations throughout New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. He is a member of the Professional Photographers Association of PA, the Professional Photographers of New York State and the Finger Lakes Profesional Photographers.

A native of Mansfield, Bruce holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mansfield State College (now university). Following a four-year tour of duty with the United States Navy where he was trained as a journalist, Bruce worked as a news reporter and photographer for the Norwich, Connecticut Bulletin. Later he worked as a photographer for the Williamsport Sun-Gazette. From 1973 to 1979, Mr. Dart worked as Assistant Director of Public Relations at Mansfield State College, leaving to open his own business just before it became a university.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Unless there's snow on the ground or I'm near water, I always struggle to take photographs in March. Trees aren't budding yet, flowers are barely poking up through the earth, and the browns of the landscape are unappealing and uninspiring. What's a photographer to do?

I was recently at Nessmuck Lake where a rare sunshine was breaking through the clouds. There's a particular birch tree I've always found interesting so I decided to make a photograph with my phone even though the ground was the aforementioned brown. The image was okay.

I rarely add filters, but I decided to try a black and white one. I liked the photo so much better! Gone was the brown grass. Now it looked as if it had a dusting of snow on it, and the white bark of the birch really popped. I liked the contrast between the dark hillside and the white clouds.

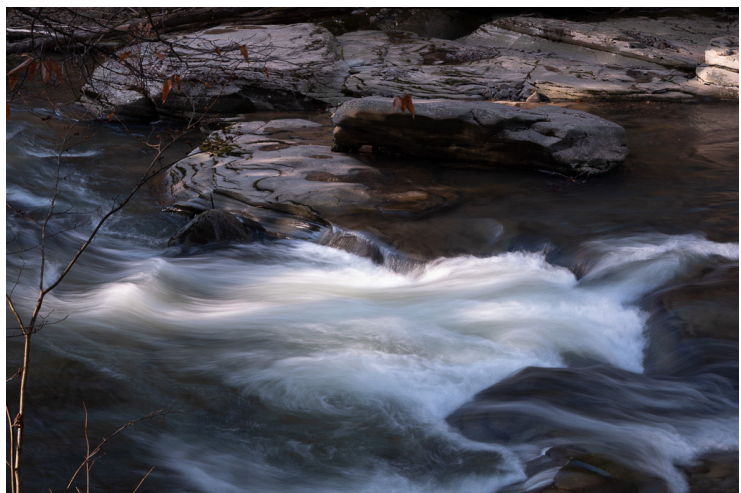
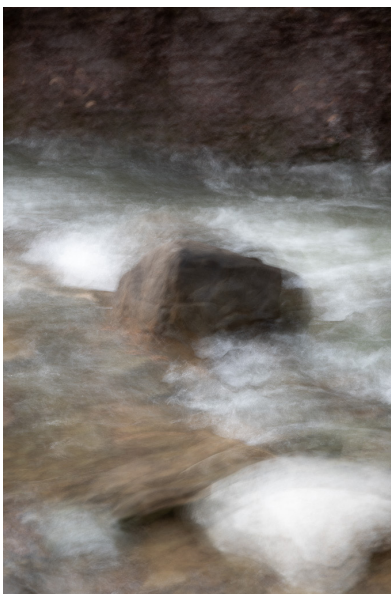
I know not every color image makes a good black and white: it needs texture, contrast, and shape to really work. That said, my new mindset for March is "make it black and white" month. Converting from color might not work every time, but I'm sure trying it will help me beat my March 'brown' woes.

Have fun and keep creating.

Mia



All Images this page
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GCPC March 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The March 11, 2025 meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club was called to order by President Mia Lisa Anderson. No guests were in attendance. A motion to accept the minutes from the February meeting was made by Diane Cobourn, seconded by Paul Bozzo, and approved by the membership in attendance. The treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Gary Thompson, with the starting balance (ending January) of \$2,952.31 and an ending balance of \$3,032.35. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Dennis Stager, seconded by Will Slotter, and approved by the membership in attendance.

If anyone needs a name badge or needs to update an old one, please see Gary Thompson. There are still openings to sign up to provide refreshments in the months of May, July, and November. If anyone is interested, please contact President Mia Lisa.

President Mia Lisa brought up the topic of our June Photo show and opened the topic to the membership for discussion, and asked whether we wanted to do a juried (reviewed by a judge or judges) or a show where it would be a display-only type of show. There were varied opinions: having it judged by a judge, having a display only show, having it judged by the membership, or having it judged by the public as in a "people's choice" type of judging. The Board will be meeting to discuss and finalize the details for the show on Saturday March 22. The details will be provided in an email to the membership, as well as at the April meeting.

A motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting was made by Gary Thompson, seconded by Dennis Stager, and approved by the membership in attendance.

The program for the evening was an incredibly interesting one presented by Casey Volino on Astrophotography.

*Respectfully submitted,
Tana Carpenter
Recording Secretary*





Surviving Brown

I wasn't sure what my musing would be this month, but Mia helped me formulate it when the photo club board met this morning to discuss the upcoming club show.

She mentioned an outing she had been on recently and how difficult it was to find something to take a photo of. She commented that everything is "brown" these days.

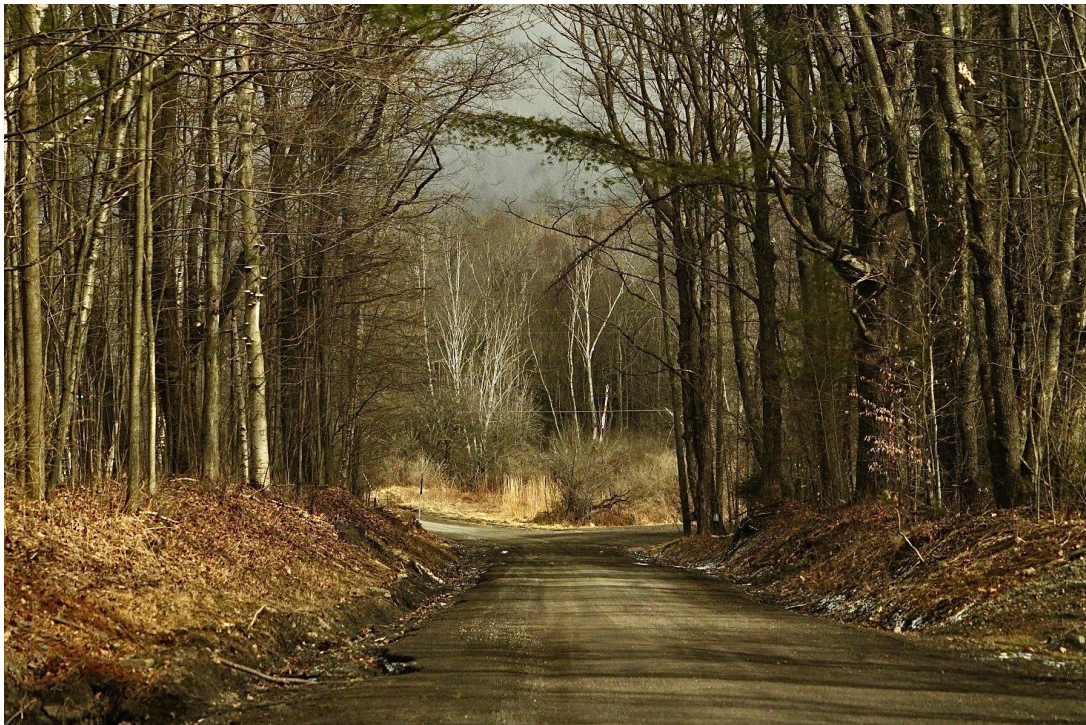
And that is certainly true. We are solidly in the brown season—that season between winter white, cold blues, and spring greens. And for some of us, it's honestly the pits as photographers.

But at Mia's outing, she was challenged to take a simple photo of a tree. She didn't see the tree as a good subject but took the picture anyway... then, in processing, she processed it as a black-and-white photo, and surprisingly, she was impressed at how it turned out.

Sometimes, a challenge—and a different perspective—is what we need.

So, this April, let's look beyond the usual. Think about what you like to take photos of, and then change it up. Try a different look, a different subject, a different way of processing your photo. Look beyond the brown for other things that catch your eye.

It's all a part of our growth as photographers. And that's good!



©Linda Stager



Club Reminders Critique Submissions

Please send critique submissions (or other images you'd like to submit for the newsletter) to Mia at:

mialisa1957@gmail.com. Follow the guidelines we have always used, i.e. 1024 or 2048 pixels on the long side and one submission per critique. Remember to put your name in the file name, e.g. anderson_tulips.

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

2025 Officers:

President: Mia Lisa Anderson

Vice President: Missy Volino

Treasurer: Gary Thompson

Recording Secretary:
Tana Carpenter

Corresponding Secretary:
Linda Stager

Directors:

2024-2025:

Brad Adams, John Newell

2025-2026:

Greg Caulkins, Will Slotter

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Mia Lisa Anderson

Membership: Gary Thompson

Exhibits: Open

Website: Mia Lisa Anderson

Publicity: Linda Stager
For more information, please
contact:

president@gcphotoclub.org

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$3,026.31
Cash IN	
2025 Dues	\$205.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	\$3.00
Ending Balance	\$3,228.31
Respectfully Submitted	
Gary Thompson, Treasurer	

Editor's Note: Since Gary was away in January and February, I did not have access to the most up-to-date financial information. Therefore the last 2 reports in the newsletter were inaccurate. This report is current and correct per Gary.



©Bruce Dart



Celebrating the Basics

From the beginning of time, it seems there have been “rules” of composition for photographers to talk about. Do you follow them? Or are you a rule breaker? One of our members talked about this at our board meeting this morning.

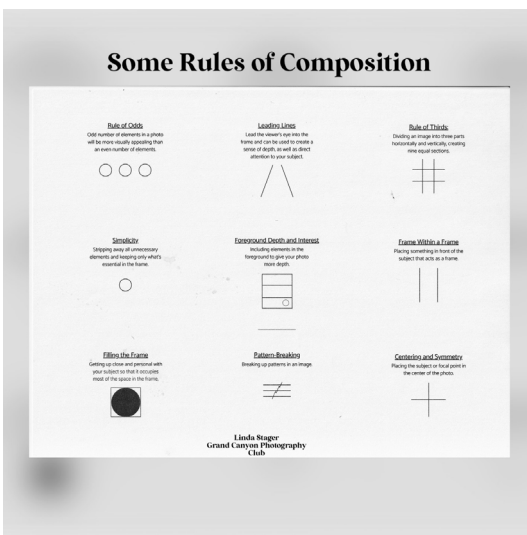
It’s important to reinforce that composition is, in part, what makes a good photo. What that means, though, is up to the individual photographer. I thought I’d celebrate the basics this month and revisit some of those “rules.” It will be a refresher for some and perhaps new information for others, but we will all grow together this way.

Here is a graphic I created for a presentation I did for the club a while back. It provides examples of some standard composition techniques. Next time you take a photo, look at your picture and see if any of these composition techniques are visible. I bet they will be! You may see several different composition techniques in your photo. Many of us have a sense of what looks good to us. But we don’t connect what we do naturally with what expert photographers do. Looking at your photo this way is good practice. Good composition makes for a better photographer, a goal we all have.

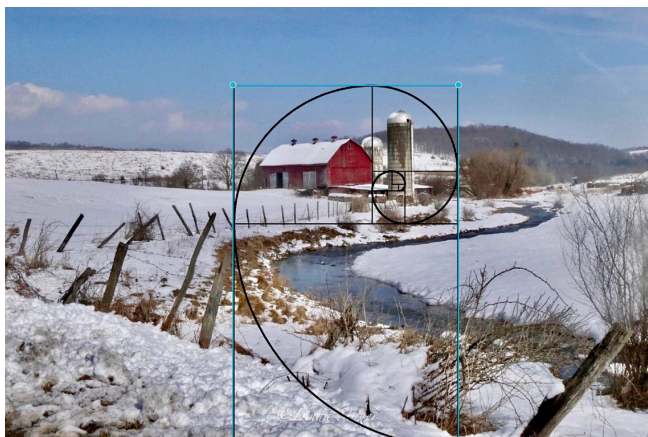
When I learned how to “bird” from my birder friends, they told me, “You can’t claim it until you can name it.”

It’s good advice, generally. I’m pretty sure you are already using these techniques naturally. Practicing naming the composition technique(s) you are using puts a name to what your natural instinct already has you doing. Missy suggested this morning at our meeting that perhaps Gary could help us “name it” to “claim it” in our critiques. It’s a thought!

In the meantime, check it out. Practice makes us all better.



Images This Page © Linda Stager



I took this photo because I liked it. I will point out some composition techniques I learned later and how they show up in this photo.

Leading lines: Where does your eye travel? Can you feel the depth in this photo? Leading lines pull you into the photo as the viewer....usually right to the subject.

Rule of thirds: Although the barn is in the upper quadrant of the frame, the photo wanders through several quadrants. The rule is to place your subject near the intersection of one of the quadrants...I didn’t.

Centering and Symmetry: The barn is in the center of the upper frame and is indeed the photo’s subject, which is nicely balanced.

upper frame and is indeed the photo’s subject, which is nicely balanced.



Celebrating the Basics *continued*

Foreground interest and depth: That old fence and snow texture catches your eye as you start to look into the frame.

Other techniques in this photo:

S curve and triangles are shown in the lines of the fencing and the creek's path. See the triangle on the left? And the S curve of the creek?

And lastly, that is a golden ratio superimposed on the photo. I was trying to learn that technique, which is incredibly hard in photography. This was a no-go, but I wanted to see if it was. Nope...

There are more techniques to see in this photo, but this is a start. Try it with your photo.



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GCPC 2025 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 Deane Center, Main Street, Wellsboro:

April: Brad Adams

Mini-Solo Shows at Arise Cafe, Central Ave., Wellsboro:

April: Gary Thompson

The Warehouse Theater: Various Members

Programs and Themes:

April 8, 2025: *Framing for Exhibition* presented by Bruce Dart. Critique: *Night Sky Image*.

May 13, 2025: *Panel Discussion on Mushroom and Flower Photography*. Critique: *Black & White Image*.

June 10, 2025: *Scavenger Hunt*. No Critique.

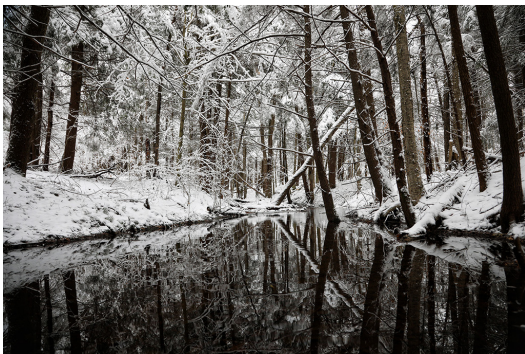
April Refreshments:

Snack: Karen

Beverage: Tana

The position of exhibit coordinator is currently open. If you are interested in taking it on, please contact Mia.

Critique Images Using Your Phone



©Brad Adams



©Missy Volino



©Casey Volino



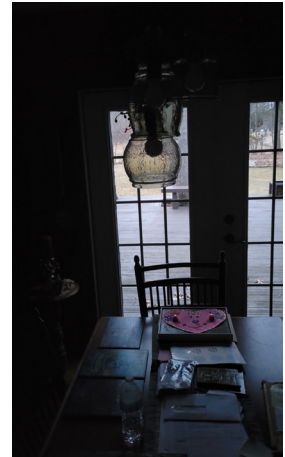
Critique Images Using Your Phone



©Bob Bair



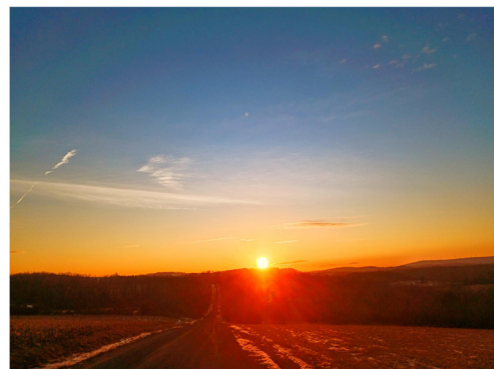
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