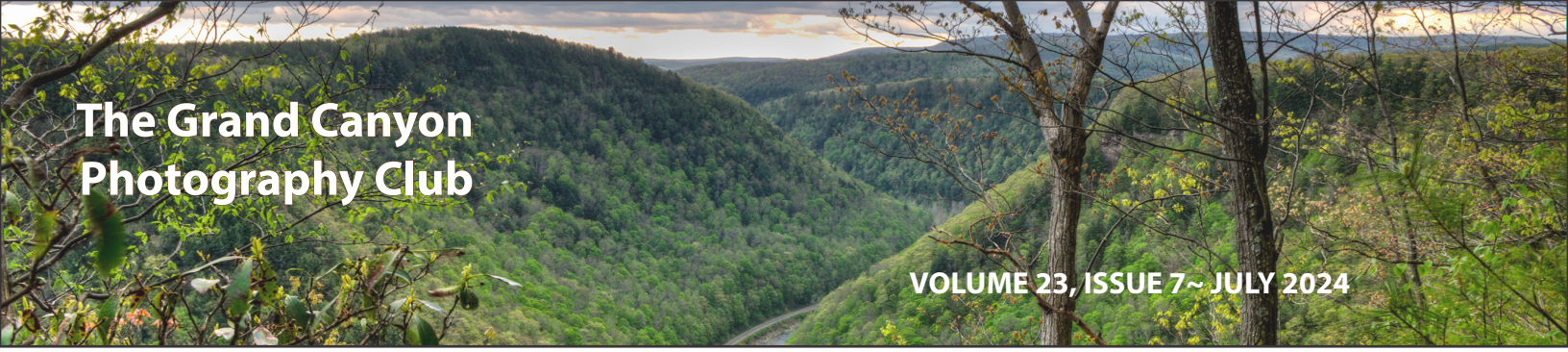

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 7~ JULY 2024

Safety is Key

Safety is an important part of any photographic outing, and it will be the topic of the July 9th Grand Canyon Photography Club meeting. The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. after a short business meeting at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA.

©Mia Lisa Anderson

"This presentation will be a panel discussion" explained President Mia Lisa Anderson. "Four of our members will bring their knowledge and experience to talk about equipment, environmental and personal safety when out photographing."

Members of the panel will be Brad Adams, Tana Carpenter, and Missy and Casey Volino. Each will bring their unique perspective to the discussion. Panel members will speak for 10-15 minutes on their assigned topic and be prepared to answer questions from the audience.

"Taking care of your equipment before you go out ensures it doesn't let you down at a critical moment," continued Mia. "As photographers you also need to be aware and respectful of the environment you are in and always, always take care of it and yourself."

The Grand Canyon Photography Club was established in 2001 by Art & Christine Heiny. The first meeting was held in January of that year and meetings are still held the second Tuesday of every month at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA. Meetings typically run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Annual dues are $20/year per individual, $35 per family. Individuals may attend two meetings before they are asked to join.

Each month a program is given on some aspect of photography. Some past program topics: Smart Phone Photography, Architechtural Photography, Composition, Lighting, Photography Ethics, Black and White, Portraiture, Post Processing and more. Programs are often presented by knowledgeable club members. Special presenters have included Wayne Palmer, Curt Weinhold, Ed Heaton, Tony Sweet, Art Becker, and John Levandoski, to name a few. After a refreshment break, member images on a predetermined topic are critiqued.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again, I have some thank yous to give out. I confess to being a bit stressed out over the recent reception. Would I have enough help? Would there be enough food? Turns out, my fears were unfounded. A number of members helped me set up the tables, arrange the food, and make things look "pretty." I had helpers to keep an eye on the table and replenish the food and drink when necessary. And there were plenty of people to take down, put away, and wash dishes. The food supply was just right. So, thank you to one and all for giving your time to make this a success.

©*Linda Stager*

I also want to thank all the club members who entered this year's Regional Juried Photography Exhibit. It's not always easy to put yourself out there to be judged. And as we all know, judging is largely subjective. All we can do as photographers is put our work out there; work that has meaning to us and is technically the best we can do.

And one more thank you to the members who came out for the annual scavenger hunt. I hope everyone had fun. I tried to come up with things to photograph that would be a bit challenging. Here is the list in case you want to try it for yourself.

Stone bench
Red door
Ladybug
Water
White pillars
Umbrella
Flag
Puzzle
Legos
Eyes
Light trails
Leading line
A panorama
Red hand
Phone booth
Statue
Path
Musical Instrument
Stained glass
Cactus
Frog
Rocking chair
Someone eating ice cream
Intentional camera movement
Reflections of another club member

Have fun and keep creating.

Mia

GCPC May 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

** There were no minutes from June because of the scavenger hunt. The May minutes are reprinted here and will be voted on at the July meeting.*

The May meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club was held on Tuesday May 14, 2024, and was called to order by President Mia Lisa Anderson. We did have guests in attendance. Mia asked if there were any corrections or additions to the April minutes, and if not she needed a motion to approve. Missy Volino made the motion, seconded by Diane Cobourn, and approved by a majority vote of the membership.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Club Treasurer Gary Thompson. He reported a beginning balance of $3,015.18 and an ending balance of $2,960.18, which included an expenditure to the Green Free Library for memorial books. President Mia asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report which was made by Dennis Stager, seconded by Bob Bair, and approved by the majority of the membership.

Mia announced that there are still openings in 2024 to exhibit at our venues of Arise Cafe, Deane Center, and Warehouse Theater. Please contact John Newell if you have any questions or are interested in displaying your photos. If you get a chance, go check out the images that are currently being displayed by our members.

The guidelines are currently available for the 2024 Regional Juried Photography Exhibit to be held at Gmeiner in June. Linda Stager, the Corresponding Secretary, emailed them to the membership, but if for some reason you did not receive them or would like a hard copy, there are some here that you can take with you.

Our club is responsible for hosting the reception for this event, Friday night, June 14th from 6-8 PM. We could potentially have a large crowd, as it is Laurel Festival week. We need help with set-up, replenishing the food on the table, clean-up, and we need people to donate food for the event. Carrie provided suggestions for food items so there is a list being passed around. Please sign up or contact Mia to let her know what help or food items you can provide. Please do not supply any food items that contain peanuts and provide a card listing the ingredients for any food items.

Mia asked the membership if anyone had any new business and if not, she needed a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. The motion was made by Casey Volino, seconded by Karen Mitcheltree , and approved by the majority of the membership.

Following the business portion of the meeting, we were treated to a presentation titled "Unlocking Success: Ten Game-Changing Lessons I Wish I Had Learned Earlier" by Linda Stager, followed by a brief refreshment break, and Gary Thompson leading the critiques of member photo submissions.

Respectfully Submitted by
Tana Carpenter
Recording Secretary

©Mia Lisa Anderson

RIBBONS

The Regional Photography show will probably be ending as you read this and the show, as usual, has brought about some conversations about winners and losers.

The truth is, you could say that many of the show's participants are losers. Most of them are…they didn't get recognized with a ribbon next to their photo and a hearty handclap at the reception.

But I'd like to talk about the show experience and challenge you to keep entering shows if you do and consider entering if you haven't yet.

Why would you do that, if you would more than likely consider yourself a loser in the end?

Because there is so much more to life than a two-dollar ribbon. Oh my…there is SO much more to life. I want to challenge you today to put the show experience into perspective. I didn't win, but I am supportive enough to reach out to those who won and congratulate them. They are on top of the moon, so to speak, right now. I also met some amazing people at the reception who I hope will join our club in the future.

For now, it is the winners' time. But that glory will soon fade, and life will go on. And if you are stuck on winning, then the rest of your life will be a disappointment. And that's sad.

We can talk about how the judge got it wrong. (We did.) We can talk about how shows are destructive to self-confidence. (We do). And yet, it's all a part of the experience of being a photographer.

You can't get down on yourself because you didn't win… You CAN be proud of yourself for entering and being selected for the show. You CAN be proud of people seeing your work. You CAN be a part of a community that will support and encourage you…even when you don't win. (I promise you that the people who are truly a part of the photographer community will reach out and say, "I liked your print…win or lose.)

You may have heard me advocate for our club doing "displays" instead of competitions in the future. Displays level the playing field between pros and hobbyists (that argument doesn't matter, by the way; I see amateurs win over so-called pros all the time, including in this show). But a display does let all of us celebrate, not just some of us.

Life is so much more than a two-dollar ribbon, so don't get stuck there. Let's celebrate all of us….ribbon or not.

The fact is, we are all winners…we share an amazing hobby, and we gather regularly with an amazing photographer community. That's the real "win".

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

2024 Officers:

President: Mia Lisa Anderson

Vice President: Missy Volino

Treasurer: Gary Thompson

Recording Secretary: Tana Carpenter

Corresponding Secretary: Linda Stager

Directors:

2023-2024:
Bob Bair, David Ralph

2024-2025:

Brad Adams, John Newell

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Mia Lisa Anderson

Membership: Gary Thompson

Exhibits: John Newell

Website: Mia Lisa Anderson

Publicity: Linda Stager

For more information, please contact:
president@gcphotoclub.org

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.

Treasurer's Report	
Beginning Balance	$2,977.18
Cash IN	
2024 Dues	$55.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	$3.00
Ending Balance	$3,029.18
	Respectfully Submitted
	Gary Thompson, Treasurer

Ancient Power©Mia Lisa Anderson

Choosing the Strongest Composition

Sometimes, I struggle with having multiple similar photos of a scene and trying to decide which is THE photo I want to keep. They all look pretty good to me, so which is the ONE?

Here are some photos I took at Letchworth State Park this summer. I have oodles of pictures of the Upper Falls there. Most folks who visit do.

But on this particular morning, I saw something I had never seen before. We drove up to the falls, and I could see the shimmer of a rainbow—a rainbow! In all my years of going there, I had never seen a rainbow here, so I jumped out of the car and went to investigate.

Sure enough, there was a lovely rainbow at the falls. People were milling around, taking photos. And a painter was sitting in the grass painting the scene. I chatted with folks, asked the painter if she was going to paint the rainbow into her painting, and then settled in to watch the light.

The scene was exquisite.

Both Images ©Linda Stager

A little later, I ran into my good friend, John Kucko. He is a well-known digital creator, retired TV anchor, and sports broadcaster. He was preparing to do a live stream from the park. So, we chatted while he was waiting to "Go Live." I told him I had captured a rainbow at the falls, and we compared photos. I looked at his screen, he looked at my screen, and we both agreed that his photo was better because he also had a train engine on the bridge, and I didn't. We laughed…, and then he told me that this morning's rainbow was indeed rare.

It only appears for a few days a year, depending on the atmosphere, and I showed up at the famously coined photographic "decisive moment," so to speak. How exciting

Now, I knew I had a series of unique photos, and it was time to pick one, the ONE. Which would it be?

I think the process should start with which photo is the clearest and most in focus. Then, I look at the subject—what is the subject, and how do I show that off in the best way possible? Then I look for something particularly interesting—what makes this photo unique. John's photo had a train on the bridge, and I didn't. But I had people in mine…and I happened to like that in this case.

Speaking of people, sometimes I have people in my photos, and other times,

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Grand Canyon
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

GCPC 2024 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:

July 2024: Karen Mitcheltree

August: Available

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

July: Linda Stager

August: Mary Sweely (Curt's photos)

The Warehouse Theater: Various Members

John Newell is our new coordinator for displays at the Deane Center and Warehouse Gallery. Contact him if you are interested in displaying at one of our venues.

Programs and Themes:

July 9, 2024: *Panel Discussion: Equipment, Environmental, & Personal Safety When Out Photographing.* Critique: *Photo from Scavenger Hunt*

August 13, 2024: Club picnic. *No Critique.*

September 10, 2024: *Outing to be determined. No Critique.*

October 8, 2024: *Seeing the Light* presented by Linda Stager. Critique: *Photo from the Picnic or September Outing.*

November 12, 2024: *Smart Phone Photography: the Next Level* presented by Mia Lisa Anderson. Critique: *Autumn Light. (Extra challenge: Autumn Light taken with your phone.)*

December 10, 2024: *Annual holiday party. Slideshow of Member Favorite images.*

July Refreshments:

Snack: Gloria Schwab

Beverages: Dennis & Linda Stager

Mystery Macro

How observant are you?

What is this? Send your guess to: mialisa1957@gmail.com

Mystery Macro images kindly supplied by Maggie Holmes

No Guesses:

A cork

continued from page 6

I work hard to make sure I am there when there are no people, no cars, and nothing to distract from the subject itself. It depends on what I am planning to do with the photo. Some publications like people in the scene, others don't.

Of course, it goes without saying that light is everything in a photo. So, I look for shadows, highlights, and interesting patterns.

So…. which do you think is the stronger composition in these photos? In one photo, the scene is cropped more, providing a more intimate peek at the momma and little girl in their close and loving, impromptu, unscripted pose. The artist is in the other photo, but you can't tell what she is doing. I couldn't position myself to get the painting, her, and the rainbow into an excellent composition. Maybe it doesn't matter that you know it's a painter vs. a picnicker.

Ultimately, here is my advice. After you have culled all the photos with distractions, you go with what photo speaks to you

I conducted a little poll with these photos and asked my Facebook friends for their opinions. While I love other opinions, in the end, I am always the one to choose…for better or for worse.

My FB friends, a mix of hobbyists and pro photographers, were split in their choices, as expected. Some folks pointed out the people's red hats and shirts and felt the color was distracting. Some loved the intimacy of the momma and child. Some felt they liked the longer view of the falls and rainbow. Some liked the shadows and lighting in one photo over the other. Some commented about the golden ratio they could see in both photos.

©Linda Stager

Many liked the cropped-up version more because of the emotion in the gesture of the mother and child. (Read the comments on my FB page, both on the post and on the individual photos, for a good look at how folks critiqued the photos)

In the end, feel free to listen to all opinions but then its time to go with the photo that speaks to you and no one else. Always remember that it's your photo, so show it off in your own unique style.

I'll say it again…when it comes to the strongest composition, pick the most technically sound photo, look then at what is important to you, and finally, go with what you love, what your heart tells you is the ONE.

You just can't go wrong that way.