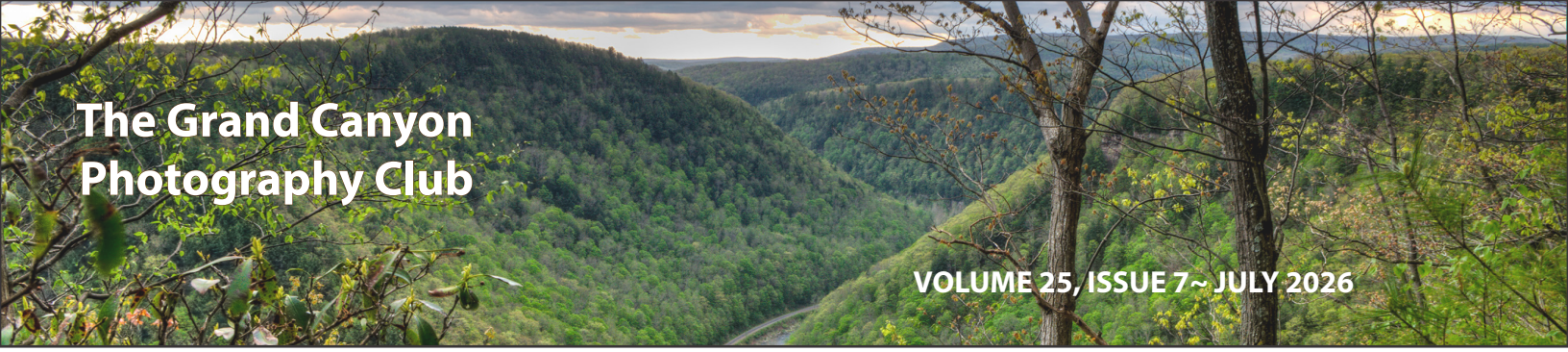

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 7~ JULY 2026

Finding Beauty in the Smallest Things

Dr. Missy Volino will give a presentation on macro photography at the July 14th Grand Canyon Photography Club meeting. The program titled *Small Wonders: Exploring the Art & Adventure of Macrophotography* will begin at 7 p.m. at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA. after a short business meeting.

The program will cover everything from planning a successful macro photography outing to selecting equipment and techniques that reveal details often invisible to the naked eye. Whether photographing delicate flower petals, colorful fungi, or the intricate patterns of an insect's wings, Volino beleves macro photography offers a fresh perspective on the natural world.

"Macro photography lets us see the beauty in things that are often overlooked, or in some cases, viewed as unpleasant, "Volino said. "Once you begin looking closely, you realize there's an amazing world of color, texture, and design all around us."

Images this page©Missy Volino

Summer provides ample opportunities to capture images of small subjects with unique and intricate characteristics that are often overlooked at first glance.

Dr. Volino is the current President of the Grand Canyon Photography Club and Director of Nursing and Associate Professor at Elmira College

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful summer weather. This time of year, always seems to inspire me to grab my camera and head outside. Everywhere you look there's something worth photographing, from colorful gardens and butterflies to scenic landscapes and golden evening light. Summer really gives us no shortage of opportunities to create vibrant, memorable images.

I'd like to thank Brad Adams for a wonderful presentation on planning a nature photography outing. I really enjoyed hearing how much thought goes into a successful trip before you ever press the shutter. From choosing locations and watching the weather to thinking about the light and packing the right gear, Brad shared plenty of practical tips that I know many of us can use on our next adventure.

Images this pg©Missy Volino

I'm also looking forward to sharing one of my favorite areas of photography at our next meeting. I'll be talking about my journey into amateur macrophotography, along with some of the equipment and accessories that I've found helpful along the way. I'm certainly no expert, but I've discovered that looking closely at the tiny details in nature opens an entirely different way of seeing the world. I hope you'll come ready with questions and maybe even leave inspired to give macro photography a try yourself.

A quick reminder that our next Photo Critique will feature "a planned photo and explanation of the plan". I hope you'll take advantage of these beautiful summer days and submit a few of your favorite images. Whether it's a sweeping landscape, a colorful flower, wildlife, or even an interesting close-up, we'd love to see what you've been creating. The critique is always one of the most enjoyable parts of our meetings because we all learn from one another's work.

Until then, enjoy the summer, get outside when you can, and don't forget to bring your camera along. You never know when you'll come across that next great photograph. I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting!

Missy

GCPC June 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The June 2026 meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club was held on Tuesday, June 9th at 7:00 PM at the Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center. The meeting was called to order by President Missy Volino, as she welcomed the membership to the meeting. The meeting was opened to "Brags and Announcements". Karen Mitcheltree is chairing the reception for the Regional Photography Show and is asking for food donations and help setting up and cleanup afterwards, which will be held Saturday June 13th. Linda Stager announced that our President, Missy Volino, just celebrated her birthday. Missy announced that she and Casey will be grandparents in January. Linda announced that she was awarded 3 state-wide awards for both her writing and photography. Linda also stated that the club is in need of a new Club Display Coordinator, as Jim Storment has resigned from this role. Bruce Dart announced that photographer Art Becker was going to be giving a presentation in Clarks Summit in September for the Northeast Professional Photographers meeting. If anyone is interested in attending, more information will follow when available.

Missy asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes (Missy handed out a typed copy of the May minutes since they were not available in the June newsletter). A motion to accept the minutes was made by Gary Thompson, seconded by Tana Carpenter, and approved by the membership in attendance. The Treasurer's Report for the month of May was given by Treasurer Gary Thompson, with a beginning balance of $3,040.66 and an ending balance of $3,037.66. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Karen Mitcheltree and seconded by Bruce Bilder. With no new business, a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting was made by Dennis Stager, seconded by Emily Kreider, and approved by the membership in attendance.

June's presentation was "How to Plan a Photoshoot" by Brad Adams. Thank you, Brad, for an awesome presentation!

Respectfully Submitted by
Recording Secretary
Tana Carpenter

©Mia Lisa Anderson

Take the Photos

This week, my nephew Zach died at 39, in the prime of his life and at the pinnacle of his young career. No one can understand how it happened. What seemed to be a bad back from falling off the sled when sled riding with his daughter turned into cancer. And in the blink of an eye, a blood clot snuffed out his life. In the blink of an eye.

It's nice that the flags across the Commonwealth Universities will fly at half-mast in his memory. And it's nice that his memorial service will be well attended. People have so much good to say about him.

But what we all want is to see his face again.

©Linda Stager

Like many of you, I've spent years pointing a camera at family gatherings. Birthdays, holidays, picnics, graduations, reunions. Sometimes people smile for the camera. Sometimes they groan and ask if I really need another picture.

The answer is yes.

On one of Zach's first days as a young patrolman, I saw him standing next to "his" police car. I pulled over, ran up to him screaming, "OFFICER STAGERRRRRRR"…..and I took his photo: Aunt Linda and Zach having a fun laugh together.

Later on, I'd see that photo here and there as Zach shared it. And now? It's the one we talk about. The one we share. Along with the photos of Zach with the big fish, Zach with the big buck, Zach with his little girl at tee ball. Photos from the day we all made apple cider together.

His promotion to chief of police. Big events and little events.

None of us knows which photograph will someday become priceless. A picture that once seemed ordinary suddenly becomes a treasured memory

As photographers, we often chase beautiful light, grand landscapes, and rare moments in nature. Those images matter. But this week I'm reminded that some of our most important photographs are the simple ones we take of the people we love.

Take the photos. Someday, someone may be grateful that you did.

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

2026 Officers:

President: Missy Volino

Vice President: Brad Adams

Treasurer: Gary Thompson

Recording Secretary: Tana Carpenter

Corresponding Secretary: Linda Stager

Directors:

2025-2026:
Greg Calkins, Will Slotter

2026-2027

Karen Mitcheltree, Casey Volino

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Mia Lisa Anderson

Membership: Gary Thompson

Exhibits: Greg Calkins

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:

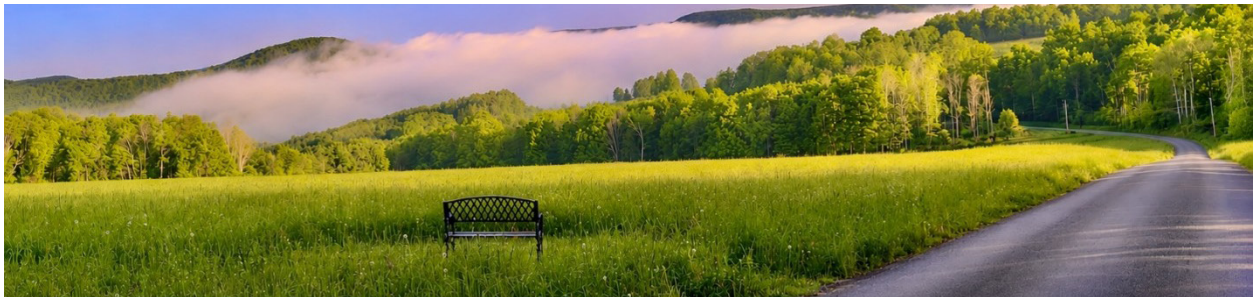
mialisa1957@gmail.com. Follow the guidelines we have always used, i.e. 1024 or 2048 pixels on the long side and one submission per critique. Remember to put your name in the file name, e.g. anderson_tulips.

Treasurer's Report	
Beginning Balance	$3,037.66
Cash IN	
Dues	$0.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	$3.00
Reception costs	$74.98
Ending Balance	$2,959.68
	Respectfully Submitted
	Gary Thompson, Treasurer

©Mia Lisa Anderson

COMPOSITION
CORNER
by Linda Stager

What's Your Subject?



Brad's presentation last month gave us lots to think about. One of the things that I pondered was the choice we have to make about our subject.

He provided a very artsy photo in his presentation, with his fly-fishing friend in the background, out of focus, and a rock face in the foreground, in focus. Because the rock face was in focus, it became the subject, not the angler.

I liked it. And it was a different perspective. It would make a great entry into a photo show. For my published works, though, my editors would never select that photo for publication because no editor wants a rock to be the subject of a magazine spread or story. And yet, wow! Was it a cool photo!

So, I have been thinking about that prospect…what IS your subject, and does it work for your purpose?

I see photographs that ultimately fail before the shutter is pressed because the photographer hasn't answered that very simple, but profoundly important question.

Sometimes the answer seems obvious. A waterfall, a flower, a deer, a lighthouse. Yet when we look at the final image, our eyes wander. Bright backgrounds compete for attention. Branches cross through the frame. Other objects are sharper or brighter than the thing we intended to photograph.

Look at the masthead photo in my column this month. What is the subject? In this grand landscape, your eye sees the bench, but it also sees the road, the houses, and the far valley. It comes together nicely, but you should know what you want before you ever press the shutter.

Sometimes the problem is even more literal. The camera focuses on the leaves in front of the bird instead of the bird itself. I've done that so often! Grrrr!

In this photo's case, the little bear wasn't (and should have been) the focus point; it was the leaves in front of it. Look closely, and you will see what is truly in focus. A wasted photo for me because I let my focus point wander.

So, our challenge question this month is: Before pressing the shutter, pause for a moment and ask yourself, "What do I want people to see first?"

Once you know the answer, every composition decision becomes easier. You can move your position, adjust your depth of field, wait for better light, or simplify the background. Each choice should support the subject rather than compete with it.

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Grand Canyon
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

GCPC 2026 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: Linda Stager

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

July: Mia Lisa Anderson

The Warehouse Theater: Bruce Dart, Greg Calkins & Linda Stager

The position of exhibit coordinator has been filled by Greg Calkins

Programs and Themes:

July 14, 2026: Macro Photography presented by Missy Volino. Critique: A Planned Photo and the Explanation of the Plan.

August 11, 2026: Black & White Photography presented by Gary Thompson. Critique: Macro

September 8, 2026: Picnic and Scavenger Hunt at Brad's.

July Refreshments:

Karen Mitcheltree

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Look at these three photos…all taken at the same time of my forsythia bush. The first: Beautiful backlighting, lots of blossoms, but its busy. Your eye gets distracted. Which blossom do you want to stop and look at?

Photo #2: Better, but the background is way too distracting. Your eye wanders…

Photo #3:

Here we have a soft uncluttered look. It's clear now what I want you to look at.

(Yes, I clipped the leaf on the top…not enough negative space there.)

The strongest photographs rarely leave viewers guessing. Their eyes go immediately where the photographer intended.

The next time you're behind the camera, ask yourself one simple question: What is my subject? If the answer isn't clear to you, it probably won't be clear to your audience either.

Focusing on the subject for your photo's purpose will make your photo's composition stronger!

Social Media Images

©Brad Adams

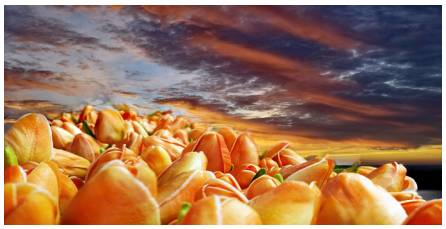
©Mia Lisa Anderson

©Bob Bair

©Paul Bozzo

©Tana Carpenter

©Bruce Dart



©Karen Mitcheltree