

Working for Likes: a Look at Life on Social Media

The May 12th meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club will feature a presentation on the ups and downs of a photographer's social media presence by Linda Stager. The program will be held at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA and begin at 7 p.m. after a short business meeting.

Linda plans to talk honestly about what it feels like to live inside it [Facebook] as a photographer.

"Some of us share our work online," explains Linda. "It's where our audience is. It's where we connect, learn, and grow. And in many ways, it's been a gift. We can reach people we never would have reached before. We can tell stories that matter to us.

But there's another side to it, too. Over time, it's easy to slip into photographing for the reaction instead of the reason. To watch what performs well and slowly adjust our work toward it. To feel the pull of numbers. And to measure, even just a little, whether a photograph 'worked' based on how it was received."

Linda continues, "There's also a growing conversation, backed by recent research, about the mental weight of social media. The constant comparison. The pressure to keep up. The sense that we always need to be producing, posting, and performing. Photographers aren't immune to that. In some ways, we may feel it more."

Linda will also talk about the potential for monetization on social media, the increased use of AI photos, and how the images you post really get used.

Ultimately, "This program isn't about walking away from social media. It's about recognizing what it asks of us. And deciding, on purpose, how we respond."



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is finally here, and it feels like everything is waking up at once. The colors are coming back, the light is sticking around a little longer, and there is so much to explore with a camera in hand. It is the perfect excuse to get outside and start shooting again.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of all that this season of new life and growth has to offer. Spring is full of great photographic opportunities. Fresh blooms, birds, animals, soft morning light, puddle reflections, and those first warm evenings all offer something a little different. Even the places we see every day can surprise us right now. It is a great season to try something new, play with light, and capture those small moments that make spring feel like spring.

The dandelion is one of my favorite parts of spring. They might be easy to overlook and many consider them to be a weed and not a flower. However, pollinators would agree with me as they often are the first source of nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinators when not much else is blooming. This early food source helps support the entire ecosystem as it starts to come back to life.



They are also a great reminder to slow down and appreciate the small things. Their bright yellow color, delicate seed heads, and ability to thrive just about anywhere make them surprisingly beautiful subjects for photography. In addition, every part of the dandelion is edible and is known to support digestive and liver health.

This month, we will also enjoy a presentation by Linda Stager on social media and photography. Most of us are using social media in some way, whether it is sharing our work, finding inspiration, or connecting with other photographers. It can open a lot of doors, but it can also make it easy to compare or lose sight of your own style.

I am looking forward to hearing Linda's insights and learning more about how we can use these platforms in ways that support our creativity while staying true to our own voice.

Get outside, enjoy the fresh air, and take advantage of everything this season has to offer. I am excited to see what you capture.

Missy



Images this pg ©Missy Volino



GCPC April 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The April meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club was held on Tuesday April 14, 2026 and called to order by President Missy Volino. Missy asked if there were any announcements from the membership and Linda Stager brought to the attention of the membership that Paul Bozzo has a beautiful display at the Arise Cafe and Brad Adams has a fabulous display at the Deane Center. Mia Lisa Anderson mentioned that in June, the Regional Juried Photography Show is being held at the Gmeiner, and if you want more information regarding this show, go to the Gmeiner website. Our club is responsible for hosting the reception for the Regional Juried show, so if you are interested in helping either to serve, set up, clean up, or provide food, please let Missy know. This will be on Saturday June 13, 2026. More information will follow at the next meeting. There are still several openings available to provide a snack or drink for our monthly meeting, so if you are able to provide a drink or snack, please let Missy know. Brad Adams mentioned that the PA Welcome Center has several spots to display photos and that if anyone is interested, to contact Valerie Baker, who is the manager.

With no new announcements, Missy asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as posted in the newsletter. No changes were made so a motion to accept the minutes was made by Gary Thompson, seconded by Karen Mitcheltree, and approved by the membership in attendance. The Treasurer's report was given by Gary Thompson and the club's beginning balance for March was \$2,951.66 and had an ending balance of \$3,023.66. Missy requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's report which was made by Paul Bozzo, seconded by Bob Bair, and approved by the membership in attendance. Missy stated that we will plan the reception and have more details at the May meeting for the Regional Juried Photography Show. With no new business, Missy asked for a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting, which was made by Mia Lisa Anderson, seconded by Bob Bair, and approved by the membership in attendance. The evening's program was a presentation by Karen Mitcheltree on portrait photography titled "The Puzzle of Portraits." Thank you Karen for such an informative presentation!

*Respectfully Submitted,
Tana Carpenter
Recording Secretary*



Before & After © Jesse Kendall



26,829 Times

I was surprised to see this number the other day: I've taken 26,829 photos of Main Street in Wellsboro.

That's the number of photos that the GPS says I have taken. That doesn't include the photos I have taken with cameras that don't have GPS enabled.

At some point, you'd think I'd run out of reasons to photograph it. But I haven't.

A troll on my FB page once said, "Oh look the same exact pictures you always take do you ever move from that spot?...you sure don't take anything exciting"

I've left his punctuation exactly as he said it. By the way, he is a local photographer.

At that point, he—and I—didn't know that I already had 26,829 photos of the same scenes of the same blocks of town. And I wondered, "Is he right?"

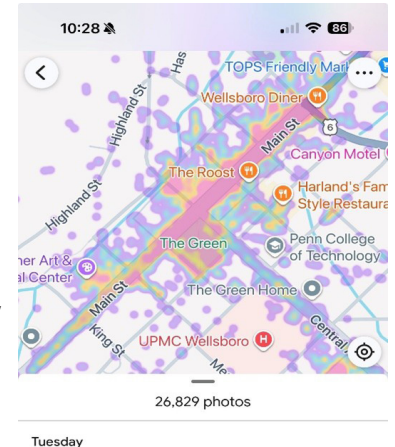
Here is what I know without a doubt, though. Wellsboro isn't just a place. It's a place I love. And you go back to the places you love.

The light shifts. The seasons move through. And sometimes nothing obvious changes at all. But something feels different.

Here is the thing. And I think true photographers know this: Someone once said that you can tell what a photographer is afraid to lose, by looking at what they love to take photos of.

I don't go back looking for something new. I go back to love what's still there.

And to notice what I missed the last 26,828 times



©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.

Treasurer's Report	
Beginning Balance	\$3,023.66
Cash IN	
Dues	\$20.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	\$3.00
Ending Balance	\$3,040.66
<i>Respectfully Submitted</i>	
<i>Gary Thompson, Treasurer</i>	

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 Caulkins, Will Slotter

2026-2027
Karen Mitcheltree, Casey Volino

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



Before & After
©Karen Mitcheltree



COMPOSITION
CORNER

by Linda Stager

When Not to Take the Picture

How many times do we go out to take a photo of a scene, and something isn't just right, but we take the photo anyway?

That's because we spend a lot of time learning when to press the shutter. Composition. Lighting. Focus. Settings..... Click.

But later, the photo feels flat. Nothing really happened. Often, it's a typical grey flat light day here in Pennsylvania. And your photo looks just like the day. Grey. Flat. Or there is no action, when perhaps there could be.

Here is what I want us to think about this month....

Most scenes don't make for great photographs just because we showed up. They become photographs when something changes. Light shifts. Or a moment interrupts the stillness.

Some call it the decisive moment, a phrase made famous by Henri Cartier-Bresson. We studied him in one of my presentations at the club a while back.

What he called the "decisive moment" is that instant when everything comes together. Click!

And it made him famous!

But the hard part is this: it's recognizing when you're not there yet. When there is no decisive moment. Not yet.

Here is an example.

I'm not telling you not to take photos of static birds on a branch. Nope, do it. But let's think about it for just a moment.

Think about that bird on a branch. A perched bird can be a beautiful photograph. Or it can be the BEGINNING of one. Watch for a turn of the head, a wing lift, takeoff....

The bird was always there. The moment wasn't.

There's a quiet skill in recognizing that this moment isn't the decisive moment.

And then choosing to wait. Or even leave!



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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:

May: Brad Adams

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

May: Gary Thompson

The Warehouse Theater: Bruce Dart & Linda Stager

Programs and Themes:

*May 12, 2026: Working for Likes: a Look at Life on Social Media
presented by Linda Stager. Critique: Portraits*

*June 9, 2026: Nature Photography Agenda presented by Brad Adams.
Critique: Social Media Image*

*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.

*The position of exhibit coordinator has been filled
by Susan and Jim Storment*

*Please contact them if you would like to exhibit at
one of the venues. First come, first serve.*

jamesstorment@gmail.com

susanlovejoy@yahoo.com

May Refreshments:

Snack:

Beverage: Paul Bozzo

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Wait for the light to change? OR come back at a different hour or a different day?

Take a static photo or an action one?

There is definitely a place for all of these scenes. I'm just suggesting
you think about what you want. And then do that.

Next time you're out, pause longer than usual. If nothing changes,
move on. If something does change, you'll feel it, and you'll know
THIS is the moment you want.

It's all part of the learning journey as a photographer.



*All Images in this article
©Linda Stager*



Grand Canyon
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Grand Canyon Photography Club
www.gcpclub.org

Before/After Photos



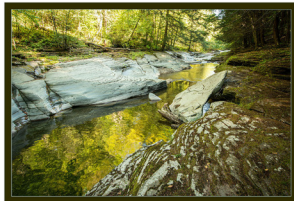
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