

# Crystal Lake Camera Club Newsletter

Serving Crystal Lake and surrounding communities since 1980

June, 2014

Year 2013-2014, Issue 10

[CLCC Website Link](#)

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## CLCC Officers

(September 2013 - August, 2014)

- **Co-Presidents:**  
Al Popp  
Chuck Rasmussen
- **Vice President:**  
David Jilek
- **Treasurer:**  
Larry Swanson

## CLCC Support Staff

- **Webmaster:**  
Sandy Wittman
- **Newsletter Editor:**  
Rich Bickham

## Presidents' Column

**W**ith the Photo 101 class right around the corner (see below article), we are thinking about all the new folks we have in the club and how it is growing at such a fast pace.

**S**o many of our new members are searching for a direction, a plan and an understanding of how photography works that we thought it might be the perfect time to address the "brand new photographer".

**P**rofessional photographers have to work very hard to make a good living. We believe the reason is very simple and basic - *competition*. Beginning (we guess) at about ten years of age almost everyone has a camera they probably use every day, be it a physical camera or one built into their iPad or cell phone. That, ladies and gentlemen, is an incredible amount of *competition*!

**M**ost of those cameras do everything automatically. All the photographer has to do is put the dial on "P" or "AUTO" and "point and shoot" (now there's an original term). But there are some folks who want to learn more. They want to understand the nuances, tricks and the artistic side of both shooting a photograph and editing it. They want to enjoy the freedom that comes with knowing why a particular aperture, shutter speed and ISO combination makes it all happen.

**T**hose of us who have already traveled the long road to gain the experience needed to create an excellent picture remember how confusing and difficult it was to try to make sense of the ABC's of photography. Large numbers meant "small" and small numbers meant "large" - what? And what does it mean when you say a second has 8000 parts? "Oh no - we don't want to go back to *fractions*!" Confusing may be the biggest understatement of the century. The "Exposure Triangle" only has three parts, but thousands of possibilities.

**O**ver the years, if there is one thing we have learned it is to appreciate the willingness and selfless dedication of those who know how to take a good picture, then wanting to share that knowledge with anyone who displays a desire to learn it. We have never met a seasoned photographer who didn't take the time from a busy day or schedule to answer a question from a "new photographer" and explain it in more detail. Age is irrelevant, and the new folks come in all shapes and sizes, and have simple or sophisticated cameras. All of them do share a common core though - they want to learn something new. What a great gift those of us who are in the know can share with them. What fun we can have teaching and showing them something new and exciting that they are eager to learn.

**O**ur Crystal Lake Camera Club includes folks we consider to be photography PhD's right on down to basic beginners. Although we operate at different levels of competence, all of us are trying

See **President**, Page 2

## Photo 101 Class

Al Popp

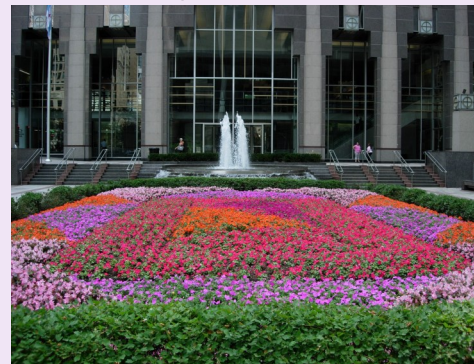
**E**xperienced members of the Crystal Lake Camera Club (Chuck Rasmussen, David Jilek and Peter Pelke) will present a **members only** event on Sunday, June 1 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. Billed as 'Photo 101', this informative class will be held in the Nature Center at Veteran Acres Park and will focus on the basics of digital photography. The park entrance is just north of downtown Crystal Lake at 330 North Main Street. We have a limited seating capacity, and therefore must restrict enrollment to the first 20 members who sign up. Since the Nature Center has limited food capabilities, only snacks will be available.

**E**ver wonder what all of your camera's funny numbers and letters mean, and how those settings affect your photographs? Well now is your chance to find out. In the class we will explore these topics centered on the "Exposure Triangle". This graphic representation is comprised of ISO, aperture, and shutter speed, and demonstrates how the three are related.

See **Class**, Page 2

## JUNE SEASONAL IMAGE

**S**ince no one submitted a photograph this month here is one from my archives. - Ed



Chicago, IL - June, 2006

Rich Bickham

Prudential Building Courtyard

President, from Page 1

to do the same thing – make a good photograph. All of us enjoy the passion and fun of photography and we all love to get together to share our experiences and discuss our successes (and failures too). In our homes we mount and hang our favorite pictures for guests to see when they visit. All of us, expert or beginner, stand in awe when we view that very special photograph, the likes of which we wish we may someday take.

New photographers are the lifeblood of any club. They reinvigorate the club with fire, passion, desire and childlike curiosity and naiveté that is truly special. They want to learn, they want to open the door to the secrets of photography and wrap themselves in the blanket of knowledge. We hold the “key” to the door for them. All we have to do is give it to them, and enable them have fun. ◇

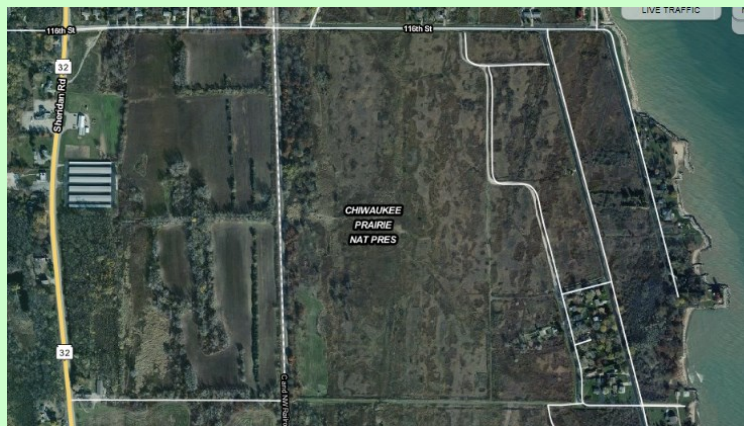
Chuck & Al

## CHIWAUKEE PRAIRIE NATURE PRESERVE

Chuck Rasmussen

At the last meeting, I mentioned a place that abounds with wildflowers in Wisconsin a little north of Zion. It has been quite a few years since I have been there so please forgive my recollection regarding specifics. What I can tell you follows.

On Apple's maps it is shown as “Chiwaukee Prairie Nature Preserve - on Google maps it is an ugly looking piece of ground with no markings (go figure). A Mapquest.com satellite image is shown below.



The 410 acre site is taken care of by volunteers. There are trails and paths but the entire area is open, so shade is non-existent. I know it doesn't need to be said, but I will anyway - **please respect the area** - take your garbage with you. Leave it as you found it for the next visitor.

It has been five or six years since I was there. At that time *there were no facilities or restrooms, and no place to get drinking water*. Some good news is that Zion State Park and Illinois Beach State Park are nearby, just to the south. I made an all day event of visiting only Chiwaukee & Zion State Park.

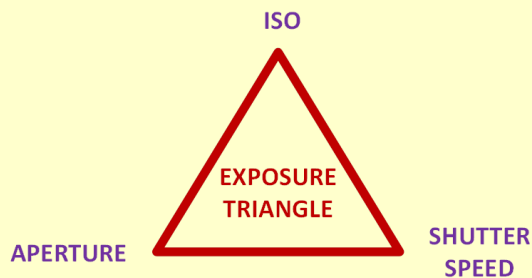
I recommend you bring some kind of shade protection - an umbrella, a hat or whatever. Also bring lots of water, snack bars and perhaps a chair which you can leave in the car if you don't need it. Good, comfortable walking shoes are a must, and tennis shoes work very well too since the ground is pretty flat.



Since I have not been there for a while, and the weather is finally tolerable (actually it is, dare I say, “hot”) I am planning a trip over there very soon.

The grounds are bordered on the west by railroad tracks then Sheridan Road, on the north by 116<sup>th</sup> street, on the south by 122<sup>nd</sup> street and on the east by 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> courts, then Lake Michigan. Illinois State Beach and Zion State Park are to the south. ◇

Class, from Page 1



Veteran Acres Park offers many nature settings for creating great photographs. Everyone will have an opportunity to practice what they have learned out-of-doors. Later, an informative show and tell will top-off the evening's experience.

Bring along your DSLR or Point-n-Shoot camera and don't forget that all-important camera manual, that must-have operating guide explaining specific functions for your camera. You can bring a tripod to help steady your camera for improved image sharpness.

Any new photography enthusiast, or anyone interested in a review of digital fundamentals should not miss this event. It will be a relaxed way to learn, ask questions and sharpen your photo-making skills.

Wednesday, May 28, is the reservation deadline. Registration is simple - just email Chuck Rasmussen [chuckr@camira.com](mailto:chuckr@camira.com), David Jilek [davidjilek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidjilek@sbcglobal.net) or Al Popp [skip3917@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skip3917@sbcglobal.net) and say, “Hold a place for me!” Free to CLCC members, \$25 for non-members (but that \$25 will also make you a club member).

Come on out, join the fun and learn more about photography. ◇

## NEW ADVENTURES IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Chuck Rasmussen

If you attended the May CLCC meeting you probably saw the new camera I purchased; a Nikon 1AW1 ( <http://imaging.nikon.com/lineup/acil/bodies/aw1/> ). It is a simple, yet professional styled model which goes underwater and has (are you ready for this) video.

I have not had a still camera that produced video before, and with a four year old grandson new to Little League, I am having a blast taking “movies” of him in 1080HD and putting them up on the television and Facebook. Even the sound is incredible.

Therein lies my “New Adventures in Photography”. I am finding that having a camera capable of producing exceptional quality video is great fun, and wonder if that aspect of photography is something we are missing in our club? Are there others of you doing this? If yes, why are you keeping it a secret? This is fun stuff. I'd love to know what you use to edit, how you edit, and any other tips and tricks you may have. Do I sound excited?

I am fortunate because this camera allows me to use my regular Nikon lenses at a 2.7 sensor factor, so my 200mm becomes a 600mm, and my 400mm becomes a 1200mm. On a baseball diamond, this is great fun. I mean, I am right in the faces of the players from my position in the peanut gallery. I can't wait to try some birding video's. What a hoot that will be. (pardon the pun).

Anyway, if any of you are doing this, or have a desire to try this, we ought to have a good discussion about this facet of the newer cameras' ability to shoot high quality video. Let me know your thoughts. ◇



## CLCC PRINT OF THE YEAR AND CACCA WINNERS

Voting for **CLCC Print of the Year** took place at the club's May meeting. To be eligible for entry, a print must have won a club Award during the past year. The first round of voting selected the best print from each of four categories (small color, large color, small monochrome & large monochrome). The second round of voting selected the best print from the four first round selections. Congratulations to the following winners:

**First Place (tie):**

Lyle Anderson - "Pioneer Farm Kitchen" - Large Color

Ernie Hagenow - "Laced in Fog" - Large Monochrome

**Third Place (tie):**

Bob Arnold - "Impassioned Dance" - Small Monochrome

Bob Popelka - "White Mushroom" - Small Color

All four winners are shown below with their category-winning prints.



(L to R) Lyle Anderson, Ernie Hagenow, Bob Popelka & Bob Arnold  
Picture by Roger Willingham

Winning photographs are shown in more detail in the column on the right. Images from Bob Arnold and Bob Popelka were not available as we "went to press".

Congratulations also goes to Chuck Rasmussen who won

**CACCA Honorable Mention**

in the May CACCA competition for his Large Color entry "Inviting" which is shown on the right. Chuck took this photograph on a recent vacation trip with his family to Mexico.

As usual, all available winning photographs have been uploaded to the CLCC website by Webmaster Sandy Wittman. ◇



"Inviting" - Chuck Rasmussen

## FIRST PLACE PRINTS OF THE YEAR

## (UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL)

Lyle Anderson

About 68 years ago as a high school sophomore, I bought a used Kodak folding camera and began a lifetime hobby. I soon built a darkroom in a corner of our house where I developed the film and printed pictures - all black and white in those days. My interest has been primarily in landscape photography where I strive to capture beautiful natural scenery, but regardless of the subject, to make pictures which have some artistic merit. The past dozen years (the digital years) have made it possible to produce ever better images using the new tools.

This particular image, a turn of the century kitchen, was taken at Old Wisconsin and processed using a technique called High Dynamic Range, called HDR for short. This makes it possible to include detail in the outdoors seen through the window and door, while still including detail in the much lower natural light inside the kitchen - something no single image exposure could have done, although it is what your eye would have seen. It was an award winner at the Crystal Lake Camera Club where photography fans meet monthly to learn how to improve their photographic skills and have some fun with it. ◇

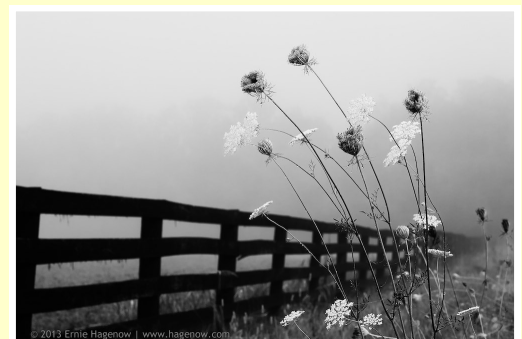


"Pioneer Farm Kitchen" - Lyle Anderson

Ernie Hagenow

Ernie is an avid amateur photographer, and occasional blogger. He enjoys photographing events, people and landscapes. As a self proclaimed tech guy, yes the AV guy in school, he loves audio & video, computers and of course camera gear.

It was a very foggy Sunday morning, weather that I had been waiting for. I had pre-visualized a few images that I thought would look great in the fog. When I arrived at the rural McHenry County location the fog was so heavy, what I visualized was masked by too much fog. While I waited for the fog to burn off I started to scout around for other possibilities. The Queen Anne's lace plants with dew covered webs, bordered by a fence-line created an interesting composed image with a barely visible tree line in the foggy background. ◇



"Laced in Fog" - Ernie Hagenow

## LARK CREATIVE STUDIOS

Laura Kohlbrand

Things are changing at Lark Creative Studios. Thanks to the new tenants of the space I occupied, we are still open for business! I will be sharing the space with them. They will be occupying the office space and giving me the joy of the studio space. The only catch is that it is by appointment only so you must call me before stopping in.

After some vacation time, in June I will be hitting the ground running, and will be offering excursions, classes and other fun things to do with cameras and lights! ◇



## THE FRINGE OF STILL PHOTOGRAPHY \*

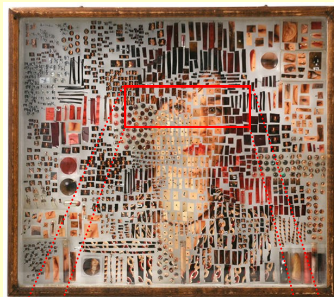
### Photography Collages & Mosaics

Rich Bickham

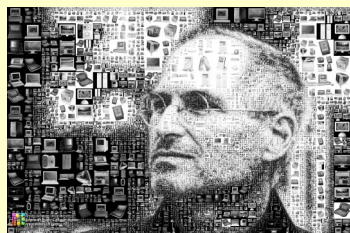
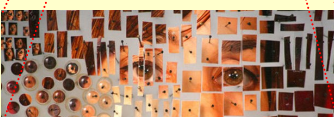
In the first 'Fringe' column (December, 2013) we explored the work of artist Kent Bellows, whose pencil drawings were so detailed that they were often mistaken for photographs. Bellows sometimes drew on the "pixel" level, using individual pencil dots to create a realistic image. This month's column explores a rather opposite technique - using individual photographs as "pixel" elements to produce a much larger image (not likely to be mistaken for a still photograph) of a subject that may or may not be contained in any of its individual pixel elements.

A normal photograph (film or digital) is comprised of individual tiny colored 'dots' which, when viewed at arm length or greater, looks like a continuous image. A collage (or mosaic) uses larger elements as pixels, which unlike dots have significant detail within themselves. The final work must be viewed at a greater distance in order to approach the continuous nature of what is expected of a photograph. However, even at arm length they have an aesthetically pleasing nature. Collage photography has been around in one form or another for many years. Its forms are quite varied, so we will look at only three examples in this column.

The first example (shown at right with a sectional blow-up) is by artist Michael Mapes in a motif he calls "Specimen Boxes". This 16" x 14" x 3" 2006 work titled "Specimen no. 07" was created by cutting up multiple copies of photographs and printed material of the subject into small pieces, then reassembling them within a wood box with a glass cover using insect pins, pinning foam, glass vials, magnifiers, gelatin capsules, resin, and wax to attach the individual pieces to a large white mat. The resulting mosaic is an unusual (but recognizable) reconstruction of the subject. See <http://room62.com/> for more examples of Mapes' work.



"Specimen No. 07" Michael Mapes

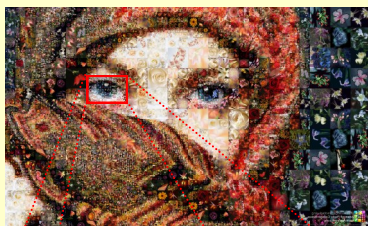


"Steve Jobs"

creator unknown

The second example is a collage (shown at left) depicting Apple co-founder Steve Jobs. It is created entirely from black and white photographs and drawings of iconic Apple products using software from Artensoft™. None of the individual elements used in this work contain pictures of Jobs himself, but the whole is a clearly recognizable portrait of him.

The third and last example is an exquisitely detailed work entitled "Floral Girl" (shown at right) which is comprised exclusively of different photographs of flowers. Also shown is a blow-up of the girl's right eye (left eye from the viewer perspective) in which the floral elements are easily recognizable. This work was also created with Artensoft™ software, and all individual elements consist of content (flowers) completely unrelated to the subject of the finished image.



"Floral Girl"

creator unknown



Creation of collages like those shown in the last two examples was impractical prior to the availability of advanced photo editing software. Numerous suppliers of such software tools can be found by searching "collage photography software" on the internet. ◇

\* This column (the seventh in a series) deals with areas that are peripherally related to still photography. - Ed



## TIPS OF THE MONTH

### STAYING ORGANIZED

Submitted by David Jilek

Now that summer is here many of us are grabbing our gear and heading out. We head out for a serious shoot one day and the next day we try to chase down a hot air balloon. In the mean while our camera bag starts looking like the hamper. Lens cloth here, a lens cap there. I think I left my ND filters in my pocket. It goes on and on until one day you can't find what you need. Well here's a way that might help. Think of it this way. Everything has its place. A permanent home so to speak. Your camera bag should be organized so that your camera body goes in the same spot every time. The lenses go in the same spot every time. Your flash ... yep, same spot every time. I try to look at it this way - you should be able to tell a complete stranger just where your memory card pocket is or where to find your cable release. One of the best ways to keep track of everything is to label it. Yes, one of those label makers does a great job.

Why do I say keeping everything organized is a must? Simple - we start shooting at all kinds of crazy hours during the summer, so we end up a little tired if not just plain slap happy at the end of the day. If your bag is organized you'll know right away if you're missing something because that spot is empty! It sounds simple but the simple things get missed when we get tired. So everything in its place all the time, every time. It's also a good tip for working in the dark! ◇

### GOOD STUFF FROM CYBERSPACE

Submitted by Chuck Rasmussen

I strongly recommend signing up for "Red River Paper" news flashes via email. In every news flash they have numerous links to wonderful concepts and ideas regarding photography, and they are all free! Check out their website by doing a Google search for Red River Paper. ◇

Submitted by Rich Bickham

If you want some unusual photography tips and tricks, I suggest you check out "Improve Photography" at

<http://improvephotography.com/8806/photography-tricks/>

which describes nine weird ideas you may never have seen or considered. ◇

## JUNE MEETING SHOW & TELL CHALLENGE

The Show & Tell challenge topic for the June 3 meeting is

**"Think spring in the woods, parks, or playgrounds."**

As usual, any special photos you'd like to share with the club are also welcome. ◇

## EDITORIAL

Rich Bickham

Chuck Rasmussen's column on page 2 "New Adventures in Photography" raises an interesting question – should we incorporate video into our club's mission statement (which can be found on the club website)? Our current mission statement makes no direct reference to still photography, video or cameras; rather it deals with improving the photographic skills of our member 'photographers'. So, is a person who shoots video a 'photographer'?

According to [oxforddictionaries.com](http://oxforddictionaries.com) the term 'photographer' is defined as "A person who takes photographs", and the term "photograph" is defined as "A picture made using a camera, in which an image is focused onto film or other light-sensitive material and then made visible and permanent by chemical treatment, or stored digitally". The term 'video' is defined as "The recording, or reproducing of moving visual images". Nowhere within the scope of video term definitions do the terms 'photograph' or 'photographer' appear. Thus it seems that our mission statement does not now explicitly suggest including video within the scope of club interests.

After a cursory web search, no video clubs within the northwest Chicago suburbs were found other than organizations or businesses that rent, sell or distribute video media. It appears such organizations (if they do exist) are few and far between, or that they are exclusively restricted to those who are involved in the professional movie industry.

Initial thought on Chuck's question suggests that the detail and time that many of our members put into creating what they consider to be "good" still photographs (set-up time, lighting, multiple shots of the same subject and "photoshopping" for example) would be very expensive and time consuming to recreate in a video medium. Competitions would likely be impractical, given the problems of finding judges and time constraints. It is not suggested here that we do not include video in our club's activities - it's just not clear how it might fit in. Reader thoughts on this subject are welcome - send them in and they will be published next month in the Reader Feedback section.

On a related note that might inspire further thought, check out this 3:45 minute video of a moonrise in New Zealand

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITobLnLkF4>

by Mark Gee (watch the entire video and turn on your sound). ◇

## READER FEEDBACK

No reader feedback this month. :-)

Reader feedback should be sent to [richbickham@comcast.net](mailto:richbickham@comcast.net)

## OPPORTUNITIES

Get your questions answered or your problems solved with our "Ask an Expert" program. Submit queries to [richbickham@comcast.net](mailto:richbickham@comcast.net) with the subject line "CLCC Photo Question" prior to the newsletter input deadline. The club will contact an experienced member and have him/her personally respond to you.

The front page picture of the newsletter will be chosen from entries received from club members. Your entry must be received by the newsletter input deadline. Email a jpg image to [richbickham@comcast.net](mailto:richbickham@comcast.net) with the subject line "Front Page Image Entry - Month" where Month is the intended newsletter issue month. The picture should have a seasonal theme. All requirements can be found in the April, 2014 newsletter (page 4).

We are in search of a volunteer to be assistant editor of the newsletter. Duties include assisting in preparation of the monthly issues, and taking over editor responsibilities should current editor Rich Bickham be unable to perform editor duties in any given month(s). Rich will provide training and guidance. A list of recommended attributes is in the April, 2014 newsletter (page 4) which can be found in the Newsletter section of the [CLCC](http://CLCC) website. Interested individuals should contact Rich at [richbickham@comcast.net](mailto:richbickham@comcast.net).

We are always looking for good photography tips for the "Tip of the Month" section of the newsletter. If you have something helpful to share with our club membership (which includes both professionals and novices so both basic and advanced topics are welcome), send it to [richbickham@comcast.net](mailto:richbickham@comcast.net) before the newsletter input deadline. ◇

## MCC SUMMER CLASSES

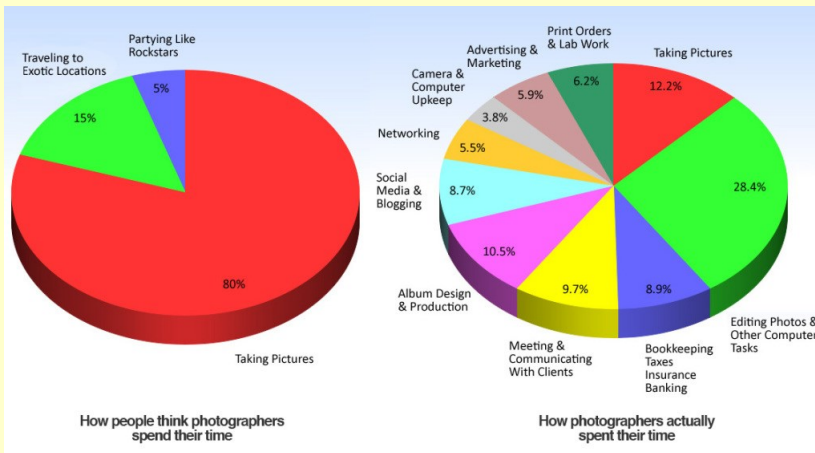
Al Popp

Be it known to anyone wishing to learn more about basic digital photography, Photoshop Elements, and/or NIK Software, McHenry County College is offering:

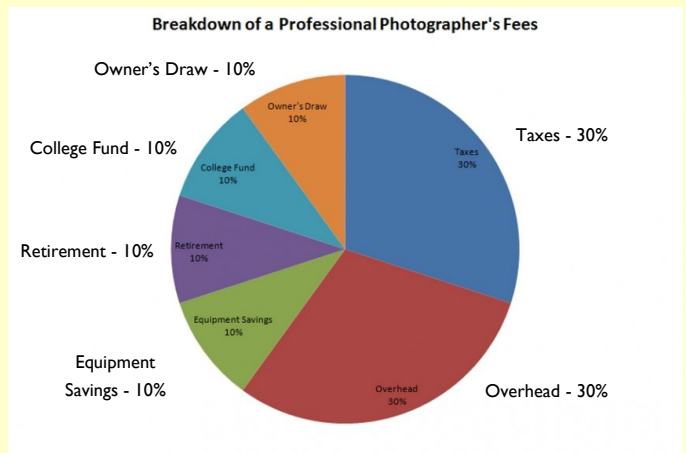
- **Photoshop Elements** - Thursday evenings in June
- **NIK photo editing software** - Monday evenings in July
- **Basic Digital Photography** - Thursday evenings in July

These are non-credit courses, however they will count toward the 76 hours required for a Photography Certificate of Completion. Find out more information by visiting the MCC website [www.mchenry.edu](http://www.mchenry.edu) or calling the MCC Registration Office at (815)-455-8588. ◇

## CHARTS & STATISTICS



Source: <http://affordanything.com/2012/03/28/making-money-isnt-fun-and-glamorous/>



Source: [chrisheatherlilly.com](http://chrisheatherlilly.com) (Professional Photographer - Ed)



## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS - June & July, 2014

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
June 1, 2014	4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Crystal Lake Nature Center 330 N. Main Street, CL	Photo 101 Class (Exposure: ISO, Aperture & Shutter)	4
June 3, 2014	6:15 - 7:00 p.m.	Home State Bank 611 S. Main St., CL Community Room	"Drop in Early" mentoring	1
June 3, 2014	7:00 p.m.	Home State Bank 611 S. Main St., CL Community Room	CLCC meeting - <i>Hank Erdmann</i> will speak on "Composition Strategies - Examining composition from a psychological view-point based upon how people will view your images." <i>Donuts and coffee from County Donuts in Crystal Lake are provided by club member Larry Swanson.</i>	1
June 14, 2014	8:30 a.m.	Colonial Café 5689 Northwest Hwy., CL	Saturday morning PhotoBug breakfast meeting	2
June 17, 2014			Deadline for July newsletter inputs	3
June 24, 2014			Target date for July newsletter email distribution	
July 1, 2014	7:00 p.m.	Home State Bank	CLCC meeting	1
July 12 2014	8:30 a.m.	Colonial Café	Saturday morning PhotoBug breakfast meeting	2

### Notes:

- CLCC meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. Home State Bank is located in Crystal Lake. It's the large building behind the drive-up just southeast of the intersection of Route 14 and Main Street. The Community Room is on the lower level - take the elevator just inside the south entrance.
- The PhotoBug Breakfast meeting provides an opportunity for open conversation related to photography in general, plus good food, and fun. Who knows, you may take home some great tips and ideas that help you capture better pictures. Don't dress up – it's all informal. It's a great way to get to know the club members on a more personal level too. This event is held at 8:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month.
- Email to [richbickham@comcast.net](mailto:richbickham@comcast.net).
- Registration deadline is May 28.** The class is free to CLCC members, \$25 for non-members (but this fee will also make you a club member). ◇

## GREAT OUTDOOR SUMMER PHOTO-OPS IN DOWNTOWN CHICAGO



1 - The Bean



2 - Crown Fountain



3 - Navy Pier



4 - Adler Planetarium View



5 - Chicago River



6 - Chicago Theater



7 - Wrigley Building

## SUMMER VACATIONS GIVE HU-MOR TIME WITH YOUR CAMERA



"Unfortunately, Don lost his camera on the way back from our holiday. But not to worry, he's going to describe all 350 photos in detail for you."



Jack likes to spend two or three days of his vacation in the office just to let others know that he can't help them.

