

JUNE, 2022

Crystal Lake Camera Club

Serving Crystal Lake, IL and Surrounding Communities Since 1980



Country Path

Color Image by Gail Schulz

CLCC Image of the Year for 2021 - 2022

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CLCC IMAGE OF THE YEAR FOR 2021 – 2022



Snowy Winter Day At The River

Color Image by Teresa Baber

Second Place - CLCC Image of the Year for 2021 - 2022

CLCC IMAGE OF THE YEAR VOTING

This year, all of our competitions were only online, digital images. There was no opportunity to show print images. So, voting for Image Of The Year was also online. Members were given a URL to peruse the gallery of qualified images and asked to email their choice of one image to Rich Bickham.

There were 17 images in the gallery, 6 of them were monochrome. 27 votes were cast which is about 54% of the current club membership. Anyone who viewed the gallery knew how difficult it was to choose just one of these stunning images.

If you'd like to review the [Image of the Year Gallery](#), [click here](#).

Thanks to Rich Bickham for managing this competition and presenting the results at our in-person April meeting.

Congratulations to all those who had images in this CLCC event!



Glacier National Park Vista

Color by John Williams

Third Place - CLCC Image of the Year for 2021 - 2022

LOOKING AHEAD - CLUB MEETING CALENDAR

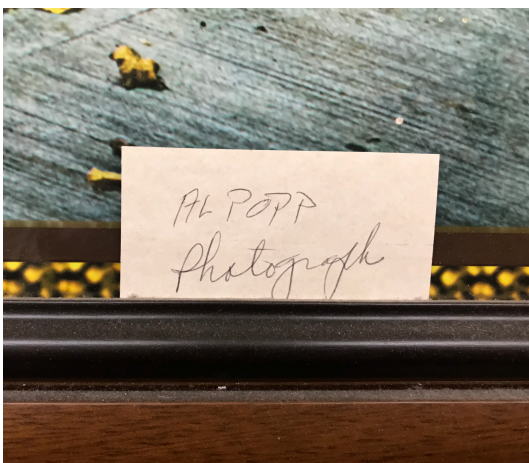
CLCC meetings are always on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., and starting on May 3, the meetings will be *in-person!* For meeting information, see *The Future of CLCC* on page 7.

Competitions are always at the February, April, October and December meetings.

June 7, 2022	Show and Tell - Email JPG images to <u>Rich Bickham</u> (richbickham@comcast.net) no later than Sunday, June 4 Joe Norton - <i>Africa Wildlife Photography Safari</i>
July 5, 2022	TBA - watch for CLCC announcements about summer activities
August 2, 2022	TBA - watch for CLCC announcements about summer activities
September 6, 2022	TBA - watch for CLCC announcements about summer activities

CAUGHT IN THE WILD!

Wander along Williams Street in downtown Crystal Lake, and step into **The Flag Store**, located in an historic building that was originally the *Raue Hardware*. Tucked towards the back on the right wall, you will find a large format, framed image of the storefront. Inconspicuously located in the lower right corner is a card that says “Al Popp, Photograph.” Surprise! Most of you know Al, a long-time



member of CLCC, and a past president. Al took this image for a class at McHenry County College. After he worked it up, he gave the print to the owner of The Flag Store.

This iPhone photo does not do the picture justice - that's the ceiling light reflected across the top. Rich in color, depth and detail, Al's image captures the translucence of the windows with the store's name, and invites the viewer into the store. If you are in downtown Crystal Lake, take a moment and view this fine work in person.

Well done, Al!

CLUB MEMBER TO SHARE WILDLIFE SAFARI EXPERIENCE

On June 7, Joe Norton will share photos and stories from his recent *Wildlife Photography Safari* to Tanzania and Kenya. He spent most of the month of February 2022 visiting a number of national parks and private conservancy lands in search of the BIG FIVE and Birds of Prey. He will share with us a bit about what it takes to plan for such a trip, the issue of travel in this time of COVID, what to pack/not pack, accommodations, and where he travelled. Most importantly we will have the opportunity to share in his experience on the Serengeti in his quest to capture interesting wildlife images and some of his photographic results!



Photo Trek 2023 Opportunity: Greater Prairie Chickens

Submitted by Joe Norton

Where: **Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, Newton, Illinois**

Date: April 04, 2023 – Tuesday - One Blind (for up to 6 participants)

Date: April 11, 2023 – Tuesday - One Blind (for up to 6 participants)

Date: April 12, 2023 – Wednesday - One Blind (for up to 6 participants)

Background: I had the opportunity to participate in this photo opportunity with Illinois Audubon this past April. I was quite taken with viewing these Greater Prairie Chickens and being able to photograph them during their courting rituals. See example images. They are quite colorful, fun to watch and photography, and even captured “visiting” Norther Harrier(s).

Renting of Blinds: The Prairie Ridge State Natural Area in Newton, IL is not open to the public. Most of the tracts of land are interspersed with private land. The Greater Prairie Chicken and their “lex” at Prairie Ridge SNA has been focus or research to



(Photo Trek 2023, *continued*)



protect and assist in the regeneration of the Illinois Greater Prairie Chicken population. The viewing blinds are used primarily for research purposes. However, with coordination provided by the Illinois Audubon, these blinds are made available for a nominal rental fee for viewing by birders and photographers over three weeks each year during Prairie Chicken courting and mating season. The only place with parking and walking access is Illinois Audubon Society's Robert Ridgway Grassland Nature Preserve. There is a parking lot and a mowed trail that takes you out into the prairie and around the wetland.

Fees for the renting of the blind go directly to the Prairie Ridge State Natural Area Greater Prairie Chicken Research Program.

What you can expect: The blinds have room for up to six photographers, with seating on bench seats. There are two rows of viewing ports in these wooden blinds. One row at seated

height, and one row at standing height. These viewing ports are not overly large. They will not accommodate sticking a large prime lens, such as a 600mm or 400mm prime lens thru them. They are large enough for 200mm-600mm lens, or a 150mm to 600mm lens and smaller lens. I was able to project my lens 200mm-600mm lens thru the viewing ports, and actually "bench rest" my lens on the viewing port, so tripods and mono pods were not needed. There is no room in the blinds to set up tripods, so leave them home.

The blinds are situated to be directly facing the "lek", with the sun rise at our backs. With good sunrise light the photography is outstanding. I did not need to attach a lens hood to my lens.

You can expect the temperatures to be in the 30s to 50's.

An important thing to bring is **WATERPROOF** boots. The walk to the lek is very muddy and there will be standing water. You do not want to sit for 3 hours with wet, muddy, feet.

I and others who participated this past April stayed overnight at the Cobblestone Inn, Hwy 33 & Gregory Dr, Newton IL 62448, due to the early morning start to get to the blinds and settle in before sunrise.

Newton, IL is about a two-hour drive from Decatur, IL where I live, and about a 5-hour drive from the Crystal Lake area. Another reason to drive to arrive the night before to get a good night's rest for an early morning start.

On the morning of the trip to the blinds, everyone meets at the Cobblestone Inn, Hwy 33 & Gregory Dr, Newton IL 62448 by NO LATER THAN 4:30 a.m. We will leave shortly thereafter, caravanning to the parking lot where we will park and then walk to the blinds. We must be in the blinds and settled before sunrise. Limit your intake of liquids in the morning as we will be in the blinds until



(Photo Trek 2023, *concluded*)

approximately 9:00 a.m. (you can delay check-out of your hotel until after the trip if it suits your itinerary). There will be some snacks available for you to take with you to the blinds (sorry, no coffee)

Scheduling: You will notice that I have reserved a blind for April 4th, and the 11th and 12th in 2023. I have commitments to participate from 7 people so far. These participants have opted to visit the Greater Prairie Chicken blinds for one morning, on one day, or two mornings a week apart, or two mornings on consecutive days.

Fees: The blind fee, i.e. donation to the Prairie Ridge State Natural Area is \$300.00 for the blind, per day, for up to six viewers / photographers. It is not required that every seat in the blind be used by a photographer. Viewers along with photographers are welcome. The cost for the blind will be shared equally by the participants for that day. So, if six participants schedule for a blind day, then the cost per participant will be \$50.00.

Note: I will be participating on each of the three blind days scheduled.

Contact Information: Anyone interested in participating in this opportunity in April 2023 to photograph Greater Prairie Chickens at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area can contact Joe Norton at:

Joe Norton
joenorton@joenorton.com
630-715-1094



Joe Norton Photography

The Future of CLCC

Notes and News from May, 2022

Submitted by Steven Szalaj

On June 7 we meet again in-person at Home State Bank! This meeting will feature a *Show and Tell*. Also, Joe Norton will share photos, stories and techniques from his recent Wildlife Photography Safari. Here are the details for the meeting:

- Home State Bank is at 611 S. Main Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 (the Commercial Banking Center, located just south of the intersection of Main Street and Route 14). Enter the parking lot from either Liberty Road or Heritage Drive.
- The meeting room will open at 6:30 p.m. – the meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.
- Enter through the door on the east side of the building and take the elevator down to the Community Room on the basement level.
- We invite you to wear a mask if you wish.

It's time to pay CLCC dues for 2022. Please send in a check to our new CLCC Post Office Box. Dues are \$25.00 for the year. Mail a check for that amount to:

**Crystal Lake Camera Club
PO Box 2193
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2193**

We have had some great discussions about club activities going forward, especially now that we are meeting in-person. Show & Tell is a popular activity, especially with the opportunity for members to offer critique and suggestions. Some other thoughts for future meetings include:

- Real estate photography
- Flowers
- Small town images
- Barn tour throughout the county
- Macro-photography hands-on experience

Thank you to Linda Blue for her intriguing and enjoyable presentation at the May meeting about the WW1 album she discovered in her aunt's attic. It brought us all closer to a distant but important part of our history.

Do you have an experience, a technique or and expertise you can share with CLCC? Send your suggestions to **Judy Jorgensen** (jjorgensen43@gmail.com), or any board member. Your contributions make our club experience richer!

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

CLCC member **Teresa Baber** is selling the photo equipment listed in [this PDF posted on DropBox](#). This is her original list, so some items may have been sold. Equipment listed includes digital and film cameras, lenses, camera bags, light meter, etc. Contact Teresa via email at tmbaber@gmail.com, or call 815-355-1608 and leave a message. Calls will automatically be sent to voicemail; Teresa will return your call.

Paolo Pellegrin's Photographic Quest for the Sublime

By Ben Taub in The New Yorker, May 16, 2022

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/05/23/paolo-pellegrins-photographic-quest-for-the-sublime>

Submitted by Scott Larsen

Paolo Pellegrin was born March 11, 1964, in Rome, Italy. He is the winner of ten World Press Photo awards. For as long as the celebrated photojournalist has been doing his best work, he has been grappling with the threat of blindness. This story from The New Yorker magazine discusses his



A blue wildebeest, caught in motion during a sunset drive.

Photograph by Paolo Pellegrin / Magnum / Gallerie d'Italia - Turin

development as a photographer, his ideas of imagery, and his progressing glaucoma. He has traveled the world and photographed in diverse climates and cultures. Here are excerpts of a few paragraphs, to give you a taste of the depth of this essay.

Ben Taub writes, “For Pellegrin, the onset of glaucoma coincided with the end of his photographic *bottega* and the beginning of his ‘doing the work as a kind of artisan—as it ought to be done.’ The

(Paolo Pellegrin, *continued*)

visual effect was mild, at first, the psychological effect less so. Glaucoma filled him with ‘a rage to see,’ as he put it. “To see more, to see beyond—to see at the maximum.”



Disko Bay, in Greenland, in 2021.

Photograph by Paolo Pellegrin / Magnum / Gallerie d'Italia - Turin

Taub recounts a discussion he had with Pellegrin when photographing in the Namib Desert.

“*Guarda l’eleganza e la perfezione del disegno, delle forme,*” Pellegrin said—“Look at the elegance and the perfection of the design, of the forms.’ The slopes of the sand were in some places so smooth and evenly lit that you could not make out the shape of the curves. It was constantly changing, particle by tiny particle, and ‘yet it is always perfect.’ ...The clouds shifted, and a mottled pattern of light and shadow drifted across the vast landscape. Something overcame Pellegrin. He went silent and lifted his camera, as expected, but in moments of intense concentration he looks like a different person. His eyes are still, his lips a little pursed. He moves deliberately, silently, his head scanning the scene—not smoothly but in sharp turns, like a raptor.”

Again, Taub says, “In 2017, while flying with the NASA scientists over Antarctica, he was struggling to convey the enormous scale of the ice shelf, the glaciers, the mountains, and the sea. ‘Photography

(Paolo Pellegrin, *concluded*)

is ill-equipped to represent this,' he told me. So he decided to exclude from his frames the viewer's only anchor: the horizon. 'How do you render an experience of the sublime? You address the idea of infinity,' he said. "Now the macro can become the micro, and vice versa. Space becomes a mental state."



Elephants, in Etosha National Park, Namibia, in early 2022.

Photograph by Paolo Pellegrin / Magnum / Gallerie d'Italia - Turin

Follow the link at the top of this article and take some time to read this fascinating story. Be inspired! Here is a very thorough gallery of Paolo Pellegrin's work:

<https://www.magnumphotos.com/photographer/paolo-pellegrin/>

Here is Pellegrin's official Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/paolopellegrin/>

TWO IN-PERSON OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW YOUR ART

4th FRIDAYS AT STARLINE

300 W. Front Street

Harvard IL 60033

815-943-4805

4th Friday Event: JUNE 24, 2022

Submission Deadline: Monday, June 13 at 11:59 PM

Fee to Enter: \$25 for 3 Pieces

<https://www.starlinefactoryartists.com/4th-fridays/4th-fridays-call-for-art>

The optional theme for June is “———” Themes are not required for participation or awards.

Awards available for the juried show include:

- Best of Show (Art or Photography) \$50 Cash Prize and Starline Medal
- 1st Place for Art (any Artwork but photography) \$25 Starline Gift Card and Starline Medal
- 1st Place for Photography (any photography) \$25 Starline Gift Card and Starline Medal
- People's Choice (Art or Photography) \$25 Starline Gift Card and Starline Medal
- Judge's Option Honorable Mention (Art or Photography) \$20 Starline Gift Card

Click here for the **SUBMISSION APPLICATION**

Click here for the **PROSPECTUS**



4th FRIDAYS ART EVENT AT THE DOLE

401 Country Club Rd

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815-347-8535

Remaining Dates for 2022: June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28

Submission Deadline for the June 24 Event: Sunday, June 12 by midnight

Non-refundable submission fee: \$50 for up to 5 pieces

<https://nancymerkling.com/4th-fridays/4th-fridays-at-the-dole/>

Cash Awards:

- Best of Show: \$100 cash, a Featured Artist Solo Show in a 4th Fridays 2022 or 2023 event.
- Nancy Merkling Choice: \$50 cash
- 4th Fridays Team Choice: \$50 cash
- 3 Honorable Mentions: \$50 cash each
- People's Choice Award: \$50 cash

Click here for the **PROSPECTUS**

(Editor's Note: As of the publication date of this newsletter, this link has the May Prospectus. This will be updated soon for the June Prospectus.)

GALLERIES AND STORIES ON THE WEB

Tourists Approach Bison At Yellowstone, Woman Filming Delivers A+ Commentary

One thing not to do while visiting our national parks...

Georgia O'Keeffe Was an Accomplished Photographer, Too

The well-known painter used photography to inspire her art.

Beautiful Diaspora / You Are Not the Lesser Part

An exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College in Chicago; two exhibition concepts and their interchangeable titles intertwine as one, breaking with more frequent traditions of ethnically separated and disconnected exhibition spaces in museology and the art world.

Chicago Gallery News

A site with descriptions and links to many Chicago/Northern Illinois art galleries. Looking for day trips?

See a Sky Full of Stars at These Certified Dark-Sky Parks

National parks are some of the best places in the world to appreciate dark night skies because the National Park Service works to protect these places from the increasingly prevalent effects of light pollution.

CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

Vice Presidents	<u>Rich Bickham</u> <u>Judy Jorgensen</u>
Secretary	<u>Royal Pitchford</u>
Treasurer	<u>Gail Schulz</u>

YOUR IDEAS MATTER!

Do you have a story, images, trip, post-processing technique, event, etc. that would be good for Camera Club members to know about? Your submissions will make this newsletter valuable! Write it up, and send it to [Steven Szalaj](#), **Newsletter Editor** at the email address in the club directory. **Please make your submission by the 15th of the month.**

CLCC SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Newsletter Editor	<u>Steven Szalaj</u>	Publicity	OPEN
Webmaster	Sandy Wittman	Competition Chairman	Rich Bickham
CACCA Delegate 1	Lance Lagoni	Competition Assistant	John Williams
CACCA Delegate 2	OPEN	Competition Assistant	Ernie Hagenow
Education	Peter Pelke II	Small Groups	Maureen Harris
Advisor	David Jilek	Outings	Andy Gruber
Advisor	Jim Pierce	Refreshments	Larry Swanson
Facebook Administrator	Scott Migaldi	Librarian	OPEN
Membership	OPEN	Mentor Program	Paul Minkus