

MAY, 2022

Crystal Lake Camera Club

Serving Crystal Lake, IL and Surrounding Communities Since 1980



Serengeti Cheetah Hunt

Color Image by Joe Norton

Award & Image of the Month for April 2022

EXPLORE THIS ISSUE

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APRIL 2022 COMPETITION WINNING IMAGES



Country Path
Color by Gail Schulz
Award



Nudutu Lion Pride
Monochrome by Joe Norton
Honorable Mention



Glacier National Park Vista
Color by John Williams
Award



**Serengeti Simba
(Lion)**
Color by
Joe Norton
Honorable Mention

Cactus Flower
Monochrome by Mike McGuigan
Honorable Mention



Serengeti Cheetah Cub
Monochrome by Joe Norton
Award

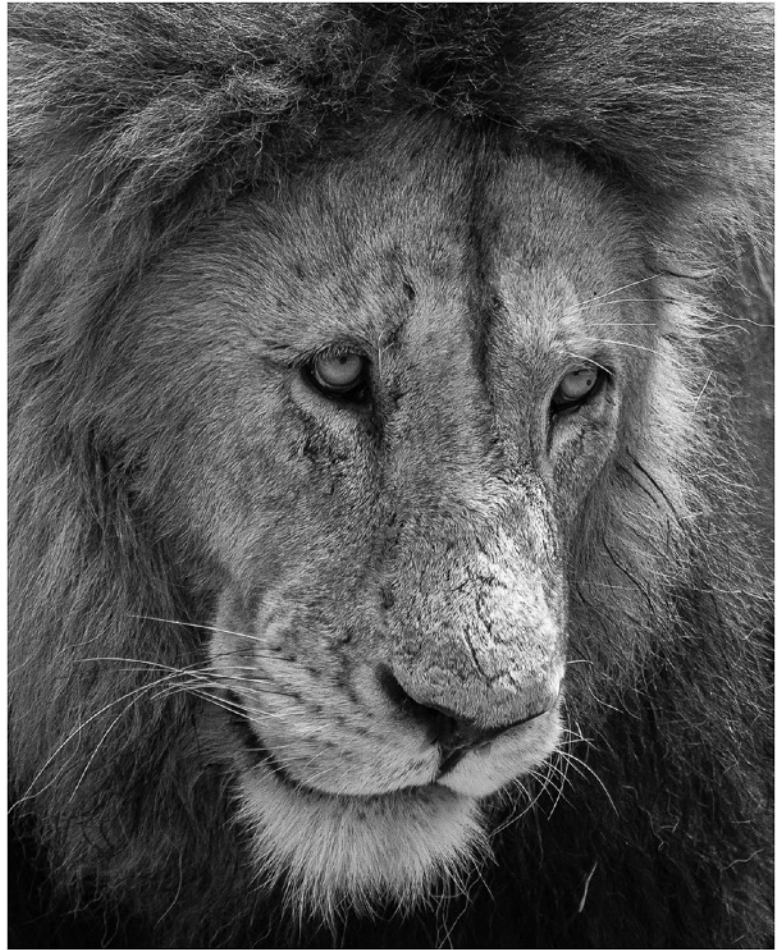


Unbridled Power
Monochrome by
Gail Schulz
Honorable Mention

**Serengeti Storm
is Coming**
Color by
Joe Norton
Honorable Mention



Serengeti Lion Portrait
Monochrome by Joe Norton
Award



**Salt River
Wild Stallion**
Color by
Mike McGuigan
Honorable Mention

The Future of CLCC

Notes and News from April, 2022

Submitted by Steven Szalaj

On May 3 we return to in-person meetings at Home State Bank! This meeting will feature the *Image Of The Year Award*. Also, Lynda Christopher will tell us how she discovered an archive of World War I photos and she will share selected photos. 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**

SPEAKING ON THE SUBJECT OF THE SONY A1 CAMERA BODY ...

Submitted by Joe Norton

At our April meeting, during the review of everyone's images entered for judging, I was asked a question: "How do you like your Sony A1?" followed by "How long have you been using it?"

You may remember that I responded quite enthusiastically, saying that I probably will not need to ever purchase a new camera again. Then continued to highlight the following points about my A1 experience:

1. Focus Speed
2. Eye Tracking
3. High resolution of 51 mega-pixels (full frame sensor)
4. Ability to capture 20 frames per second at full resolution of 51 mega-pixels

Although, in thinking about my real-time comments that evening, I thought a little bit of expansion and clarity would be in order.

Let me start by acknowledging that, yes, I can be quite enthusiastic about my Sony cameras. But a confession is in order. I have never used any other brand of camera but Sony for 27 years. Yes,

(Sony A1 Camera Body, continued)

you are reading this correctly. I purchased my first Sony early digital camera in 1995 and have stayed with Sony ever since. I have progressed from their point and shoots, to their SLR like digital Mavica (with embedded 5 ¼ inch floppy disk drive to record images), to their DSC-F717 in 2002 (still not an SLR but very advanced for its time), to bridge cameras to their first DSLR (A850 and A900), to their Translucent Lens Digital cameras (SLT – 77 and SLT-99), to their NEX series (3,5,7 which were straight thru shooting cameras, precursor to today's mirrorless cameras), to the Sony RX1 full frame and the A7 series cameras to their A9 in 2017, and now their A1 which was retail released in January 2021.

The A1 was so new and advanced that I waited for real use reviews of those who purchased it early to convince me it was worth the upgrade from my A9s.

So much for history.

Based on hands-on use reviews from photographer friends of mine, I went all in with the Sony A1. I sold every camera I owned and lots of the lenses I was not using anymore and upgraded.

Let me make another confession. From a capabilities and technical specifications perspective, I believe all the high-end mirrorless cameras today, Cannon – Nikon – Sony, are all basically equal in technical capabilities. Sure, there are marginal differences in this and that between all the major manufactures and brands, but overall, they are close to each other.

I have listened to Nikon shooters, Cannon shooters, Fuji shooters, etc. who over the decades have told me that this or that brand was superior. I have been told that Sony was inferior. I can only say that is obviously not true today, and based on the photographic results I have been able to achieve over the years, was never true. Also, I believe any of us can capture and create outstanding photographic images with whatever camera brand we use.

Which leads me to stating the following, which may or may not be only my opinion:

- A camera is only a tool.
- The camera only captures light and color information.
- The camera does not a photograph make.
- It is the photographer who creates and makes a photographic image.
- Creating a beautiful, captivating, emotion-evoking photographic image, in any genre, requires a photographer to apply knowledge of subject, light, contrast, equipment settings, composition, pre and post imaging processing, etc.
- It takes practice, training, learning, and development of skills.
- A camera body and lens together are an inanimate tool. But in the hands of a photographic craftsperson, are a tool which can be applied to capturing a moment and recording its beauty as raw information.
- Mastering the use and application of your camera is the foundation of good photography.
- We must learn how to apply and use our camera as a tool.
- Then use the tool.
- Then we use the information the tool provides us in the form of an image information file to make/create a photograph.

(Sony A1 Camera Body, continued)

Wow, did I just say all that? Yep, I did. I truly believe this for all of us as photographers.

Now back to my points of enthusiasm for the Sony A1 camera, recognizing that my enthusiasm is fully influenced by my use of the Sony A1 for my wildlife photography.

1. Focus Speed: for wildlife photography and sports or anything that moves, speed of focus acquisition is the holy grail. This camera's focus acquisition is fast.
2. Eye Tracking: Eye tracking is great. With the Sony A1 you actually have to select Human, Animal or Eye focus. It works great if you make the right selection. If you set the camera for Animal eye, and then switch to focusing on a bird, it will not find the eye. You must change the setting. I am told that with Cannon this happens automatically.
3. High resolution of 51 mega-pixels (full frame sensor): I love high pixel sensors. Why? Because they let me crop my images for composition. With more pixels I can crop more. It is amazing how large of a crop I can make and still retain great resolution and sharpness of my subject in a resulting image. Of course, if the subject is not tack in focus and sharp to begin with, then cropping only makes the image look worse. Which brings us back to Focus Speed and Accuracy.
4. Ability to capture 20 frames per second at full resolution of 51 mega-pixels: This ties the above together for me. 20 frames a second at full resolution for animals and birds especially in motion, is wonderful. At 10 frames a second, we have all experienced the up wing, down wing posture in captured bird images. At 20 frames a second, I can capture so much more variety of wing, movement, running motion, etc. At full resolution I retain the ability to crop.

For wildlife I have developed the habit of "shooting wide", i.e. not tightly dialed into a subject with a zoom lens unless the subject is stationary. I do so to ensure I do not cut off any of a subject in the frame as it moves. That is why resolution for cropping is important to me. For a stationary subject, I focus in tight, with the resolution providing so much more detail.

I choose not to shoot wildlife at 30 frames per second, which the Sony A1 can do. To shoot at 30 frames a second the A1 records at a reduced file size, ... same number of sensor pixels, but the recorded file size is reduced by 55%. A significant portion of my wildlife image captures are accomplished at long distance, and I find the reduced file size reduces my ability to crop without degrading the resulting image.

Now you know the full story about why I said, "I may never have to buy another camera body again." This does not mean I will never, ever purchase a new camera body again. Who knows? I hear there may be a Sony A7R4 with a 102 mega-pixel sensor coming out soon!

About CLCC Member Joe Norton~

Joe will be displaying for public viewing a gallery of his Wildlife Photography at the Macon County Rock Springs Conservation Center during the months of July and August 2022.

Also, Joe will be presenting a four session Introduction to Photography for Wildlife and Nature in July, 2022. This will be hosted by the Macon County Rock Springs Conservation Center in Decatur, Illinois.

Visit Joe's web site at www.joenorton.com.

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.

May 3, 2022	Show and Tell - Email JPG images to <u>Rich Bickham</u> (richbickham@comcast.net) no later than Sunday, May 1 Image of the Year Presentation Lynda Christopher - <i>WWI Photo Album Discoveries</i>
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

CLUB MEMBERS TO SHARE PHOTO EXPERIENCES

At the May and June meetings, two CLCC members will give presentations on their recent unique experiences with photography.

On May 3, Lynda Christopher will present *WWI Photo Album Discoveries*. She was given an album with over 300 labeled photos from World War I that was discovered in her great aunt's attic. The album is over 100 years old. This set her on a quest to find the story behind the album, and the people pictured in it. Her search uncovered the story of LT Cleo Ross - the only balloon soldier to die in WWI. This is an incredible story with many serendipitous turns, all starting with photos. This is sure to be an intriguing presentation!

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!



'How Could I Not Show This to the World?'

5 Ukrainian Photographers on Turning Their Cameras to the War

By Sanya Mansoor and TIME Photo Department

April 15, 2022

<https://time.com/6167254/ukraine-photographers-document-war/>

Submitted by Sandra Whitman

Children playing chess in the backdrop of a bombed home in Kyiv. Bodies sprawled across a highway just miles away from the capital. A funeral for soldiers at a church in Lviv. These are some of the haunting images that have stuck with Ukrainian photojournalists.

They have been documenting the death and destruction caused by Russia's invasion for weeks, all while dealing with the trauma of a war that has deeply affected them and their families. Many feel a greater sense of duty in their work. "I don't stay here and do this because I am a masochist," photojournalist Maxim Dondyuk told TIME in March. "I do it because sometimes a photo can change people, change societies."

TIME spoke with five photographers about images that have stayed with them, why they chose to continue documenting the war under such dangerous circumstances and how they are taking care of their mental health.

Oksana Parafeniuk can't forget the early morning hours of Feb. 24. She was lying in bed and first heard explosions in Kyiv. "It felt like suddenly our lives would never be the same."

Parafeniuk, 32, was born in the city of Boryspil near Kyiv, and had lived in the capital for more than a decade. She is currently in Poland, since she and her husband are expecting a baby in early June and needed to look for a safer place to live. They hope to return to Kyiv eventually.

Parafeniuk points out that local photojournalists face unique challenges in covering the war, especially as they and their families are dealing with danger and displacement. "I couldn't



Fellow soldiers carry in the coffin of Taras Diduh, who was killed on Feb. 26 in the war, during a funeral ceremony held at the Church of the Most Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in Lviv on March 11, 2022.

Oksana Parafeniuk

(5 Ukrainian Photographers, continued)

work for many days because I was stressed about the safety of my family—trying to talk them into leaving and arranging the evacuation,” Parafeniuk says. “Every Ukrainian I know seems to be going through so much heartbreak and difficulty—so many lost hopes and dreams—and it’s just draining your energy every minute.”

She describes photographing the funeral of three Ukrainian soldiers at a church in Lviv—and the silence when their caskets were brought inside. That was followed by weeping from the soldiers’ family members. “The sound of it just pierced my soul so deep. It was unbelievably heartbreaking.”

It’s also harder to process grief when documenting the experiences of other people, Parafeniuk says. She recalls a story she reported for *Der Spiegel* focused on a help center where psychologists would accept free phone calls from those in distress. Sitting in on those calls, she heard Ukrainians express their anxieties around the air raid sirens. “It was very difficult emotionally, because I knew exactly the feelings that all these people who called were talking about,” Parafeniuk says.

Parafeniuk thinks she could be doing a better job at taking care of herself. She is considering therapy. She’s changed the settings on her phone so she doesn’t get notifications at night; otherwise she would constantly receive news alerts and not sleep well, she says.

Evgeniy Maloletka began documenting evidence of Russian crimes against Ukraine eight years ago when Putin’s troops annexed Crimea. The 35-year-old, who is from the southeastern city of Berdyansk, was among the few journalists who were reporting in Mariupol as the war escalated. Officials say the Russian invasion has led to more



Kateryna, 16, plays with Dominika, 3, at a temporary shelter organized at the Lviv Regional Academic Puppet Theater in Lviv on March 11. *Oksana Parafeniuk*



Ukrainian emergency employees and volunteers carry an injured pregnant woman from a maternity hospital damaged by shelling in Mariupol on March 9. The baby was born dead. Half an hour later, the mother died too. *Evgeniy Maloletka—AP*

(5 Ukrainian Photographers, continued)

The tail of a missile sticks out in a residential area in Yahidne, near Dnipro on April 12. *Evgeniy Maloletka—AP*

Russian forces killed Ukrainian adults and children. “It’s beyond words. How could I not show this to the world?”

Being Ukrainian at this time is complicated. “All of us Ukrainians are experiencing feelings of anxiety and pride for our country,” he says.

Serhii Korvoinyi, 27, said he didn’t even think for a second about leaving Ukraine. “For me—a Ukrainian citizen and photographer, it felt natural to stay,” he says. “I want to make sure

than 5,000 civilian deaths in the besieged city. Maloletka says he is haunted by how such a flourishing city has been razed to the ground. Most of all, he is saddened by how residents have been forced to live a life focused solely on survival.

Working has become dangerous and Maloletka has faced attacks on the job. “They are shooting at us with...all types of weapons,” he says.

The most powerful images Maloletka says he has taken are those documenting how



Sasha and Anton, both 15, play chess near a ruined building in Kyiv on March 24. *Serhii Korvoinyi*

the world sees and remembers the situation in my country.”

Before the Russian invasion, Korvoinyi—who is from Khartsyzsk, in the eastern Donetsk region—had been working primarily on a documentary about Mariupol’s environmental challenges.

Some of the recent images Korvoinyi captured that have stuck with him are scenes of Ukrainians spending nights in bomb and subway shelters, and an image of children playing chess outside ruins in Kyiv.



Roman, 33, soldier of the 103 Brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, marries Iryna, 37, in the Garrison Temple in Lviv, on March 1. They also baptized their child, Solomiya. *Serhii Korvoinyi*

(5 Ukrainian Photographers, continued)

Korovainyi says he knows people who have been killed and displaced. He has been trying to meditate and take breaks to take care of his own mental health but “nothing really helps,” he adds.

“My country is under fire, my parents and the parents of my wife are on Russian-controlled territory,” he says. “I can’t stop thinking about it.”

Julia Kochetova, 28, is a documentary filmmaker who contributes to VICE News and Der Spiegel. She has also been working on an independent portrait series about Ukrainians who stayed in Kyiv and worked in various ways to keep their city safe and running—whether as combat medics, train conductors or animal rescue volunteers.

Kochetova was born in the city of Vinnytsia in west-central Ukraine and was raised in Kyiv. She says choosing to stay in the capital was an easy decision. “My camera always was a friend and therapy,” she says. But taking photos of war has been difficult. “To film your personal war, it hurts,” she says. “When your people are suffering, your



An elderly woman hides under a blanket after being evacuated from Irpin on March 8. *Julia Kochetova*



Flowers near a damaged floral shop inside Irpin on March 13. *Julia Kochetova*



A body is seen on a highway 20 kilometers from Kyiv, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, on April 2. *Mikhail Palinchak—Reuters*

friends are dying and your colleagues are missing, it crushes you from the inside out.”

Kochetova says she has turned to boxing, yoga and meditation to cope with the trauma.

Mykhaylo Palinchak, 37, is currently in Kyiv and has no plans to leave, although his wife and two sons have moved to Poland. Palinchak was born in the city of Uzhhorod in Western Ukraine and spent many years living in Kyiv.

(5 Ukrainian Photographers, continued)

Palinchak feels that documenting history through his photographs is particularly important given Russia's weaponization of disinformation. "I feel an obligation, being Ukrainian, to document the events," he says. "I never hold any weapon in my hands but I can hold a camera...Truth is the only weapon Ukraine has."

The most challenging assignment for Palinchak has been photographing highway M06, about 20 kilometers from Kyiv. "I didn't expect so many bodies that have been lying on the road for weeks. I had never seen so much death, pain and tragedy in my life before."



General view of a room in an administrative building in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, where Ukrainian National Guard servicemen were held as hostages since the start of Russian invasion, on April 8.

Mikhail Palinchak—EPA-EFE/Shutterstock

Editor's Note: Though these images are not particularly "beautiful" and many are very disturbing, I believe it is important to see people using their cameras and photography skills to bring what they see to the rest of the world. Thank you, Sandra, for sharing this. As one of the photographers said, "Truth is the only weapon Ukraine has."

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: MAY 27, 2022

Submission Deadline: Monday, May 16 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 May is "Gatherings." Themes are not required for entrance 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: May 27, Jun 24, Jul 22, Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 28

Submission Deadline for the May 27 Event: Sunday, May 15 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 April Prospectus. After the April 22 Event, this will be updated for the May Prospectus.)

6X6 PROJECT ARTS FUNDRAISER

Raue Center's **6×6 PROJECT** fundraiser and online art auction/exhibition celebrates its fourth year of supporting arts with Art! All proceeds benefit Raue Center's fine arts education programs, Mission Imagination and Raue Center School For The Arts, which have been enriching the lives of over 20,000 kids a year in the local community since 2001.

Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to participate by creating original works of art, in a variety of mediums, on 6×6" canvases. Since our inaugural event in 2019, 6×6 Project has raised over \$45,000 for MI and RCSA with canvases coming from around the nation!

All artwork submitted to the **6×6 PROJECT** will be available for viewing and bidding online at Auctria.com starting June 6, 2022. Artists and the public are cordially invited to our Reception on June 25, 2022, from 5:30-8 pm to mix, mingle and bid on your favorite pieces!

Create a mini-masterpiece and support the arts in your community!

Several of our CLCC members have participated in this event. It is a good way to get your images seen by a public that loves art, and you are supporting an arts venue right here in McHenry County. Entering is easy! Complete instructions are at the [**6x6 PROJECT WEBSITE**](#).

Purchase one or two 6" X 6" canvases from the project partners (listed on the website and the links below) for \$5 per canvas. You must use these official canvases. Mount or print an image on the canvas and drop your artwork off by May 9, 2022. All artwork submitted to the 6×6 PROJECT will be available for viewing online and can be bid on in an online auction starting June 6, 2022. All auction proceeds go to education programs at the Raue. On June 25, 2022 will be an artists's reception at the Raue Center that is free and open to the public.

[Click here for Participation Guidelines.](#)

[Click here for the FAQ Page.](#)

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS:

Out of the Box – 71 N. Williams Street | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 444-7446

Brush Studio – 121 W. Main Street | Cary, IL | (847) 516-3880

Creative Arts Inc. – 400 Highland Avenue | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 219-9243

Material Things – 103 E. Van Buren | Woodstock, IL | (815) 575-9710

Piano Trends – 35 Berkshire Dr | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 477-4266

SUPPORT THE ARTS WITH ART!



GALLERIES AND STORIES ON THE WEB

These Photographers Chase New Zealand's Glowing Waves

Capturing bioluminescence, a phenomenon in which glowing algae give crashing waves an electric blue glow, requires technical skill and a bit of luck.

A Long Walk in a Fading Corner of Japan

As is true throughout rural Japan, many of the once-vibrant villages on Honshu's Kii Peninsula are aging into nothingness.

Abundance, Exploitation, Recovery: A Portrait of South Georgia

A series of ecological initiatives, including the eradication of several invasive species, has dramatically revived the life and landscape of this remote sub-Antarctic island.

4 Women Photographers on the Hardest Photo They Ever Took

It's a common myth that creative genius comes naturally—Beethoven just understood music, Michelangelo magically knew how to paint, Denzel Washington was born ready to act. But the truth is, talent takes time. Workshopping ideas, experimenting, sketching and planning, surviving setbacks, experiencing moments of inspiration—these are all part of the job. Four women photographers demystify this process by telling us about their most challenging image.

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