

SEPTEMBER, 2023

# *Crystal Lake Camera Club*

Serving Crystal Lake, IL and Surrounding Communities Since 1980  
[crystallakecameraclub.com](http://crystallakecameraclub.com)



*Tulip Festival, Holland, MI*

Color by Pat Carr

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## IMAGES FROM THE AUGUST SHOW & TELL

### *Wet Snow, February 2023*

Color by Pat Carr



### *Sunset Behind the House*

Color by Pat Carr



### *Lake Geneva Sunset*

Color by Pat Carr



## IMAGES FROM THE AUGUST SHOW & TELL



*Slightly Asymmetrical*  
Monochrome by Peter Pelke

A different take on Marina Towers in downtown Chicago

*Bus ride back to Ogilvie*  
Monochrome by Peter Pelke

Inside a CTA Bus



## IMAGES FROM THE AUGUST SHOW & TELL



### ***Riverboat Patterns***

Monochrome by Peter Pelke

The view of a tour boat on the Chicago River

### ***Destruction of Arlington Park***

Color by Peter Pelke

The remains of the grandstand at Arlington Park Racetrack in the distance



# The Future of CLCC

## Notes and News from August 8, 2023

*Submitted by Kim Walkup, CLCC Secretary*

**At the August meeting**, twenty members attended.

### Home State Bank

Rich provided an update. He was able to go into the room and share pictures of the room. There are eight tables with four chairs for a total of 32 chairs and a large TV monitor. The contact person has been out, and he left a message for her.

**UPDATE AS OF 8/9:** Rachel Jesky, the contact at HSB, called Rich and said that the new facility was remodeled to be a training center for the bank. Their new policy is to not allow the public to use it.

### Show and Tell

Three people shared photos for the Show and Tell. Good feedback was provided by the group.

Jeff Chemelewski

- Fishing village on Vancouver Island Coast
- Lavender field, Port Angeles, Washington
- Olympia National Park Hurricane Ridge
- Fushia flowers from Bouchard Gardens in Victoria, Canada (A 70-200 lens works well for flowers)

Pat Carr

- Lake Geneva boat house at night
- Lake Geneva sunset
- Holland, MI tulip festival – pink/yellow tulips
- Ice/snow storm bending trees

Peter Pelke

- Marina Towers angle black and white taken with his cell phone; Snapseed app on phone to edit
- Chicago River boat Odyssey
- Navy Pier ferris wheel skyline
- Bus ride
- Cocoon of monarch butterfly – showed before and after
- Welcome to Arlington Park destruction – various photos

### Before & After

Rich Bickham

- Spider web – Used Photoshop Elements and Nik
- Cave Point Park in Door County – a foggy day end of season
- Bridge shot
- Upper Peninsula circular stone
- South Rim of Grand Canyon after a hail storm
- Lake Michigan hotel parlor room – layered in the sunset from another photo into the parlor room
- Story, Indiana – old farm

Jeff Chemelewski

- Wildlife prairie
- Vancouver Island – original was in color and after in black and white
- Prairie field

*(The Future of CLCC, continued)*

### Photo Display at Dentist Office

Gail shared that the dentist office is wanting black and white architecture photos and wants a light grey matting in a white frame. Group discussed a better way it would look with a black frame. Discussion also centered around the pros and cons of participating in this. Gail will share with the dentist office what it would look like both ways.

### Small Group Activity

As a follow-up to the July meeting discussion on sharing more editing software knowledge and instruction for beginners, it was decided to bring laptops to the August meeting and share how to edit such as changing a background or layering. We then broke out into groups based on interest in editing with Affinity (Karl), On One (Doug) and Photo Elements (Peter) and the three of them shared how to do some editing in those programs with small groups or 1:1.

### Photoshop Elements editing shared by Peter Pelke

Peter used the head of a lion for example to change the background to black using Dodge and Burn. Go to Draw, dodge and select brush stroke soft, select color black and go around the object. Go to Filter, adjustments threshold, use slider. See the areas you missed. Go back and clean up with brush. Peter uses Nik silver efex pro (photo suite in DXL.com) to clean up the photo.

### ACTION

- Everyone submit a show & tell photo to next meeting or email it to Rich Bickham.
- Send black and white architecture photos to Rich if interested for the dentist office.
- Monthly schedule: Monthly is Before and After and Show and Tell. Competitions are October, December, February and April. There is also a final competition of year of award.

***We hope to see many more of you on September 12!***

## CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

Co-Presidents	(POSITION OPEN) <u>Judy Jorgensen</u>
Secretary	<u>Kim Walkup</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 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month.**

## CLCC SUPPORT PERSONNEL

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



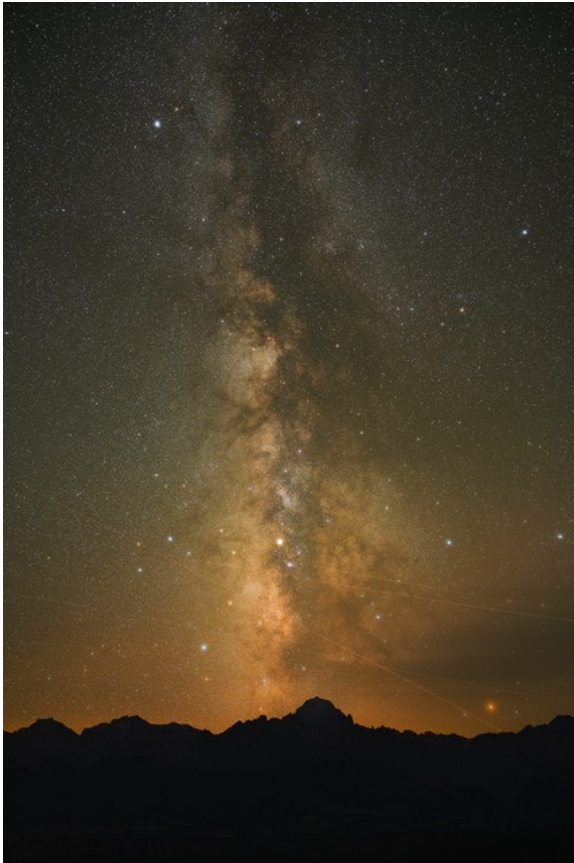
## Tips and Snippets

Submitted by Judy Jorgensen, CLCC President

*(Editor's Note: This will be a regular feature highlighting a few points that can "up your game." Everyone can learn from these ideas, whether a beginner or more experienced. Judy was given permission to use the information in "23 Photography Tips for Beginners in 2023" by Spencer Cox, published in Photography Life. She will summarize a few tips each month.)*

### Learn Which Settings Matter

There are a lot of camera settings, and it takes some practice to get them right, especially as a beginner. Even advanced photographers won't always do everything perfectly. But it's worth learning how to set your camera properly, and which camera settings matter the most, so you have the best chance to take the photos you want.



First, try practicing with camera modes other than full Auto. You won't learn anything if your camera is making all the decisions for you. It might be confusing at first, but hopefully our articles on aperture, shutter speed, and ISO will give you a good head start. Those are the three most important settings in all of photography.

Aside from aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, learn how to focus properly by practicing with the different autofocus modes. You'll probably prefer single-servo autofocus (also known as One-Shot AF) for stationary subjects, and continuous-servo autofocus (also known as AI Servo) for moving subjects. Don't use manual focus unless it's so dark that autofocus isn't working.

Lastly, shoot in Raw if you want to edit your photos, or think there's any chance you'll edit them in the future. JPEGs look good out of camera, but the files have much less latitude for post-processing. (If you aren't sure, shoot RAW+JPEG, and keep the RAWs for later just in case.) See RAW vs JPEG for more.

Sample photo (left) from Nikon Z7. To capture photos like this, it helps to have an intimate understanding of camera settings. Two-exposure blend.

### Don't Overexpose Highlights

When you are picking your camera settings, it is critical to avoid overexposing highlights in a photo. The reason? It's simply impossible to recover any detail from white areas of a photo. Personally, I prefer the sky in my photos to have nice texture and color, rather than being just a big, featureless blob, and I bet you do too.

*(Tips & Snippets, continued)*

It's pretty easy to keep your highlights intact. But this is where shutter speed, aperture, and ISO are so important. These are the only camera settings that directly affect the brightness of a photo (ignoring flash settings, of course). Even exposure compensation – an important setting itself – just tells your camera to change one or more of these three variables.

When you're taking photos, watch the camera screen to see if there is any overexposure. If there is, the first thing you should do is lower your ISO to its base value (usually ISO 100). If it's already there, use a faster shutter speed. That will take care of the issue. As for aperture, make sure it isn't set to a crazy value (f/32, f/45, etc.) and you'll be good.

If your camera is mirrorless and has a histogram or zebras, enable them. These tools allow you to check your exposure and more easily get a properly-exposed photograph.



NIKON D800E + 24mm f/1.4 @ 24mm, ISO 100, 6/10, f/16.0

## CLUB MEETING CALENDAR

All meetings start at 7PM and are at the Algonquin Township Building, 3702 Northwest Hwy, Crystal Lake in **Meeting Room 2**. Enter at the back of the building.

September 12	Member Presentations Show & Tell, Before & After
October 10	Competition Show & Tell, Before & After
November 14	Member Presentations Show & Tell, Before & After

**Show & Tell** and **Before & After** have provided some lively, informative conversations for CLCC attendees. Great suggestions for outings and club offerings have come from these activities.

**For Show & Tell:** submit 3-4 JPG images to Rich Bickham ([richbickham@comcast.net](mailto:richbickham@comcast.net)) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date.

**For Before & After:** submit *pairs of JPG images* to Rich Bickham ([richbickham@comcast.net](mailto:richbickham@comcast.net)) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date. The pairs would include the image as it came out of the camera and the image after post-processing. Be prepared to tell (and even show) the changes that were made.



## GALLERIES, STORIES, VIDEOS AND INSPIRATION ON THE WEB

### **We Put Photoshop's New Generative AI to the Test, And It's Not Exactly Perfect**

*Photoshop's new feature driven by Artificial Intelligence, Generative Fill, gets a "road test" from the folks at Popular Mechanics. (Spoiler alert: it's damn good, but it's still far from perfect.)*

### **Creative Ways to Display Your Photography at Home**

*From prints on hexagonal tiles to triptychs to stunning photo books, there are great ways to show off your photos in this CNET article by writer Andrew Lanson.*

### **10 Poignant And Iconic Photographs From Classical Music History**

*Classical music history's most iconic photographs – from the haunting shots of the Cellist of Sarajevo, to Marian Anderson's defiant performance at the Lincoln Memorial – are collected here by Sophia Alexandra Hall in this story for [classicfm.com](https://www.classicfm.com).*

### **Travel Photography: How to Make the Most of Your Cellphone Camera**

*In this story for the New York Times, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer James Hill gives some guidelines for using the most ubiquitous camera in the world.*

### **I Wanted to Capture the Fleeting Magic of a Summer at Camp in Photographs**

*In this photo album and essay, photographer and filmmaker Josephine Sittenfeld strives to capture the life changing experience when she became a counselor at a camp in Vermont after her freshman year in college. She says, "Somewhere in this outdoor summer utopia — a blend of vaguely Quaker ethos with a communist, hippie, artsy sensibility and a dash of Midwestern kindness — I found my people."*

### **Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year competition**

*Nature At Her Best: It's a landmark year for the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year competition. Have a look at the winners in this competition from down under.*

### **Images of 'wonder and woe' in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition**

*CNN Travel posts a gallery of 15 photos from this year's entries to their annual competition. Follow the link, and then click on a photo in the gallery to read the caption.*

### **Ultimate Guide to Taking Great Hiking Photos: Outdoor Photography 101**

*Going for a hike this fall? In this post for BearfootTheory.com, Kristen Bar gives 9 great tips with excellent photo examples to help you get the most out of your trek.*

## HOW TO ENTER THE OCTOBER COMPETITION

- Only DPI images (JPG) will be accepted for entry (no prints until further notice).
- No more than 2 Color images and 4 Mono images per entrant.
- Maximum JPG image size is 1400 pixels wide x 1050 pixels high.
- The deadline for jpg entries is Sunday, September 24.
- Entries must be sent to Rich Bickham ([richbickham@comcast.net](mailto:richbickham@comcast.net)) by September 24.
- The judges will be emailed the images on Tuesday, September 26 and will have one week to score the images.
- The judges' scores will be submitted to Rich by Tuesday, October 3.
- Scores will be tallied and the results will be presented at the Tuesday, October 10 meeting.

## Helpful Resources

Photographers you may be interested in viewing, contributed by Judy Jorgensen:

### **Dan Anderson**

**[danielandersonphotography.com/](http://danielandersonphotography.com/)**

Beautiful color landscapes and seascapes with striking composition from America, Norway, Faroe Islands, Scotland, Patagonia, Ireland, Antarctica, Europe, Iceland, etc. If you love black and white, check out his American West, Europe, Antarctica, and Greek islands black and white images of land, sea, and architecture.

### **Ed Callaert**

**[edcallaert.photoshelter.com](http://edcallaert.photoshelter.com)**

This nature photographer travels extensively along the west coastal and mountain states as well as upper to mid east coast United States. His gallery is full of colorful land and seascapes with interesting composition techniques you may want to try.

### **Willard Clay**

**[willardclay.photoshelter.com](http://willardclay.photoshelter.com)**

This landscape and bird photographer has a vast collection in his gallery by states and a stunning collection under birds. He also teaches at Mayslake in the Forest Preserve District of Dupage County. Enjoy, study, and try.

Resource for camera repair, contributed by Bill Batalden:

### **APS (AUTHORIZED PHOTO SERVICE)**

8125 River Dr # 100

Morton Grove, IL 60053

[repair@authorizedphotoservice.com](mailto:repair@authorizedphotoservice.com)

800 406 2046

Bill said: "I recently had my camera & lens repaired at APS authorized camera repair. I felt the work was good and the price reasonable. They give an estimate, which you have to approve, before proceeding with the work. When I spoke with the owner, he said he could offer a 'Club' rate."

## Let's Build a New Resource in the Newsletter

It has been suggested that the newsletter have a page that is a quick-reference for online resources to help us all with the art of photography, post-processing, etc.

If you have particular resources that you reference, please share that link with me. Include a short summary of what can be found in the link. The reference can be a video, web page, PDF, or any other format that has an online link. An example might be:

Lightroom (Classic) Tutorial for Beginners 2023 <https://youtu.be/E6QkfOnUkbI>

How to prepare your catalog of images correctly from the start to keep your images safe and find those images later

Send your contributions to me at [szjsings@mac.com](mailto:szjsings@mac.com), I will compile a list, and keep adding to the page each month.

Let's make this a valuable resource for our members! Your contributions are needed!

## ENTER YOUR PHOTOS IN THE NATURE CONSERVANCY 2023 GLOBAL PHOTO CONTEST

The 2023 Global Photo Contest is a chance for you to give voice to nature by sharing what you see with others around the world. Enter at this link: [\*\*2023 Global Photo Contest\*\*](#)

The Contest is open now (it began August 30), and ends September 29, 2023. The contest is free to enter.

Submit photos in twelve different categories:

- People and Nature
- Plants and Fungi
- Mammals
- Birds
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Insects and Arachnids
- Underwater Life
- Lands
- Oceans
- Freshwater
- Climate
- Aerials



The above link has a page that defines each of these categories. There are first, second and third place awards in each category. There is one Grand Prize winner.



- The Grand Prize winner will receive a prize valued at \$5,000.
- Each First Prize winner in each category will receive a prize valued at \$1,000.
- Each Second Prize winner in each category will receive a prize valued at \$500.
- Each Third Prize winner in each category will receive a prize valued at \$250.

The Contest Rules and list of Judges can also be found on the link above.

There is also a gallery of current submissions.

### DISPLAY YOUR WORK!



## Morton Arboretum Sculpture Show



**Mind Eye (2015)** by Olga Ziemska  
Locally reclaimed wood logs, metal armature Permanent Outdoor Sculpture  
RespirArt Sculpture Park, Dolomite Mountains, Italy

### Of the Earth

#### *Now Open!*

Five large-scale sculptures by Polish American artist Olga Ziemska will be created exclusively for a new exhibition at The Morton Arboretum, **Of the Earth**.

The exhibition will explore the artist's expression and philosophy that, she says, "We are nature." Ziemska said that her aim is to remind people that "everything in life is derived from the same basic elements that form everything in nature, including ourselves. There is no separation." In Polish, Ziemska means "of the earth."

The artist's work will be created from reclaimed tree branches and other natural materials gathered from various locations throughout the Arboretum's 1,700 acres. "I am giving reclaimed natural materials a new life and transforming them from nature into new forms," Ziemska said.



**Stillness in Motion (2002)** by Olga Ziemska  
Locally reclaimed willow branches, wire, metal armature  
Centre of Polish Sculpture, Chapel Gallery, Oronsco, Poland

## TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW YOUR IMAGES

### 4th FRIDAYS AT STARLINE

300 W. Front Street  
Harvard IL 60033  
815-943-4805

4th Friday Event: September 22, 2023

Submission Deadline: Monday, September 11, at 11:59 PM

Fee to Enter: \$25 for 3 Pieces

<https://starlinefactory.com/call-for-art-2/>

The optional theme for September is “Country Roads & Transportation.” Themed artwork is 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 (All entries): Starline Medal

Click here for the **SUBMISSION APPLICATION**

Click here for the **PROSPECTUS**

Click here for directions on **HOW TO ENTER ART INTO THE STARLINE 4TH FRIDAY ART EVENT**



### 4th FRIDAYS ART EVENT AT THE DOLE

401 Country Club Rd  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
815-347-8535

4th Friday Event: September 22, 2023

Submission Deadline for the August 25 Event: Sunday, September 10, by midnight

Non-refundable submission fee: \$35 for up to 5 pieces

Cash Awards:

- 4th Fridays Team Choice: \$50 cash
- Nancy Merklings Choice: \$50 cash
- Kim Holz Memorial Award: \$50 cash
- 5 Honorable Mentions: \$50 cash each
- People’s Choice Award: \$50 cash

Click here for the **PROSPECTUS**