

NOVEMBER, 2025

Crystal Lake Camera Club

Serving Crystal Lake, IL and Surrounding Communities Since 1980
crystallakecameraclub.com



The Erechtheion (Athens)

Color Image by Steve Hillmann (Shown at the October 14 Meeting, see more on Page 2)

EXPLORE THIS ISSUE

Images from the October 14 Meeting	<u>Pg. 2-10, & Cover</u>
<i>Before & After</i> Images from the October 14 Meeting	<u>Pg. 11-12</u>
The Future of CLCC	<u>Pg. 13</u>
Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association: President's Letter	<u>Pg. 14</u>
Club Calendar, Submitting for <i>Show & Tell</i> and <i>Before & After</i>	<u>Pg. 15</u>
<i>Better Black and White</i> - the December Presentation by Peter Pelke	<u>Pg. 16</u>
Galleries, Stories, Videos and Inspiration	<u>Pg. 17</u>
Crystal Lake Camera Club Group Chat	<u>Pg. 17</u>
Image Themes for Future Meetings/November Theme: <i>Food</i>	<u>Pg. 18</u>
Landscape & Nature Small Group	<u>Pg. 18</u>
Officers & Newsletter Submissions	<u>Pg. 18</u>
Helpful Resources	<u>Pg. 19-20</u>
Breakfast Meeting	<u>Pg. 20</u>
Photo Ops At the Morton Arboretum	<u>Pg. 21</u>
Photo Op at the Chicago Botanic Garden - <i>LIGHTSCAPES</i>	<u>Pg. 22</u>
Two Opportunities To Show Your Images	<u>Pg. 22</u>

IMAGES FROM THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING



Roman Forum of Athens



Temple of Apollo, Delphi

The images on this page and the cover are by Steve Hillmann.



Bourtzi Fortress Nafplio Port



North Side of Erechtheion from Street at Night



Parthenon



The Odeon of Herodes Atticus

IMAGES FROM THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING



The images on this page are by
Steve Hillmann

When traveling to Greece, he was struck by the amount of GRAFFITI he saw amongst all the beautiful, ancient scenery. He decided to make it a subject of his photos - a kind of street photography,



IMAGES FROM THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING



**The images on this page are by
Jeff Chemelewski.**
They were taken on a recent
photography tour of
The Wave (Northern Arizona)



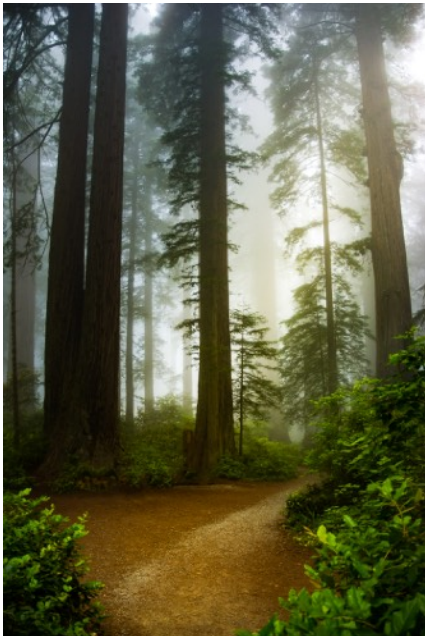
IMAGES FROM THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING



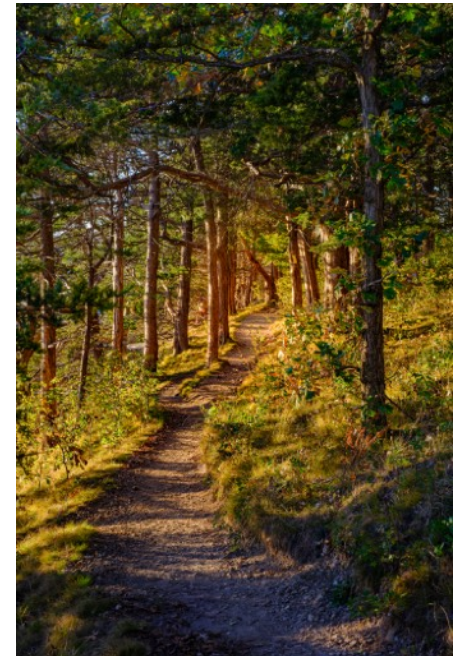
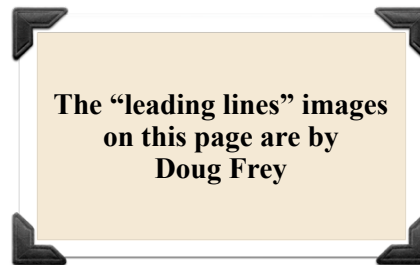
Boloria Meadows



Flint Creek



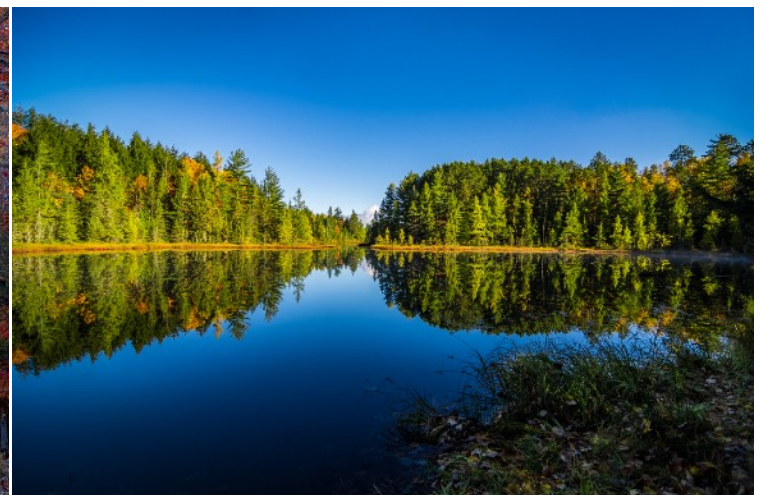
Northern California Vacation



Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area



Door County



Devil's Lake

IMAGES FROM THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING



Eiffel Tower

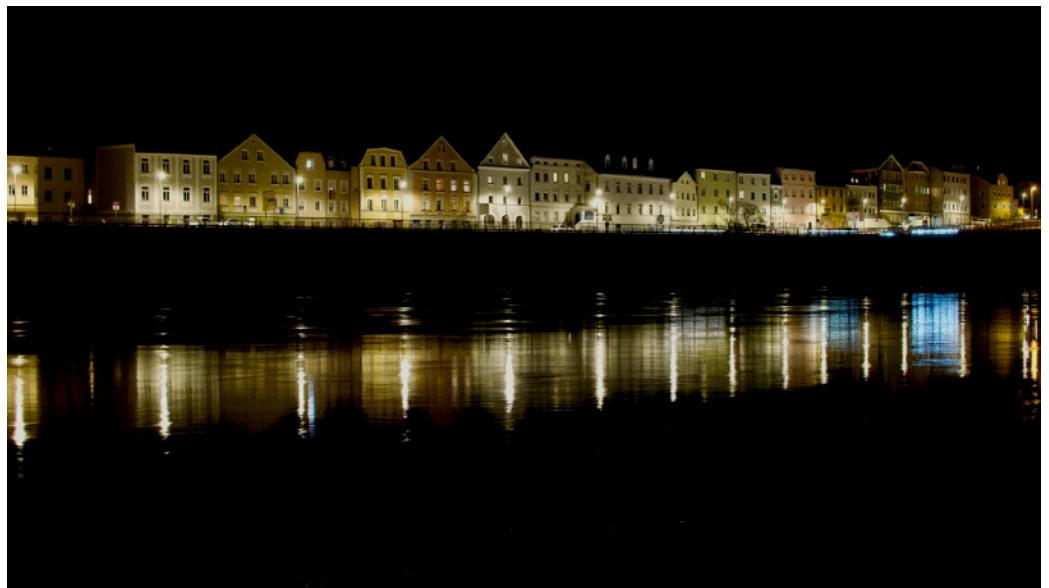


Passau, Bavaria, Germany



Passau, Bavaria, Germany

The “leading lines” images on this page are by Steven Szalaj.



Night across the Danube, Passau, Bavaria, Germany



Taliesin Drafting Room



Romeo and Juliet Windmill - Taliesin (Wisconsin)

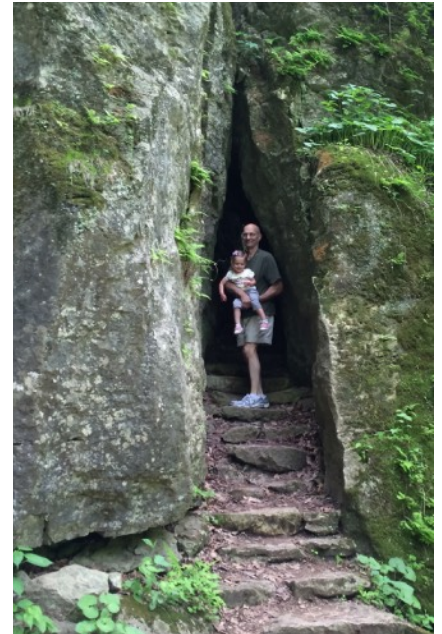
IMAGES FROM THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING



Smiling Squirrel



Monarch in Tree

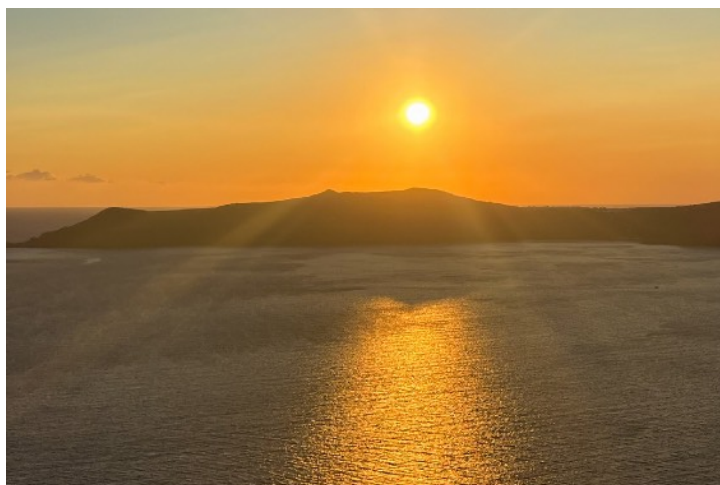


Cave Dwellers

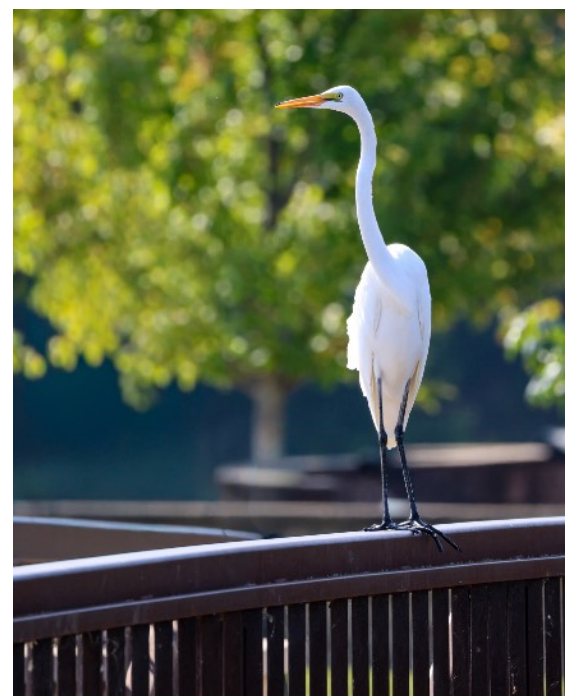


Standing Proud

**The images on this page are by
Linda Hopp.**



Caldera Sunset



Heron on Bridge

IMAGES FROM THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING



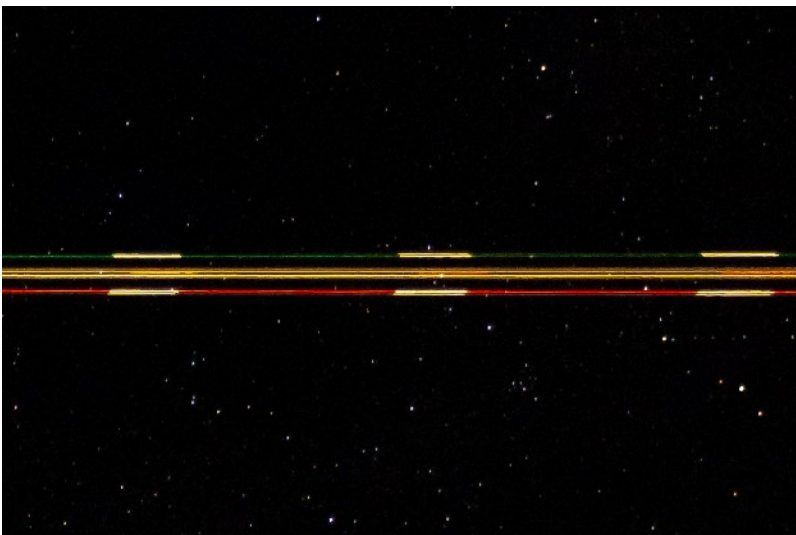
Water Lilies



Duck Family



Mountain View



Jet Overhead at Night (long exposure)



Bald Eagle

IMAGES FROM THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING



Railroad

Color Image by Mel Marilim

The image to the right and the two below
are by
Royal Pitchford.



Motion Blur



Long Exposure

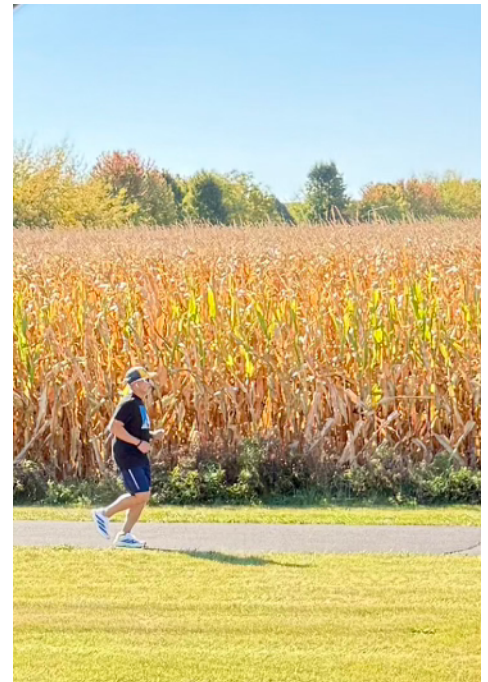
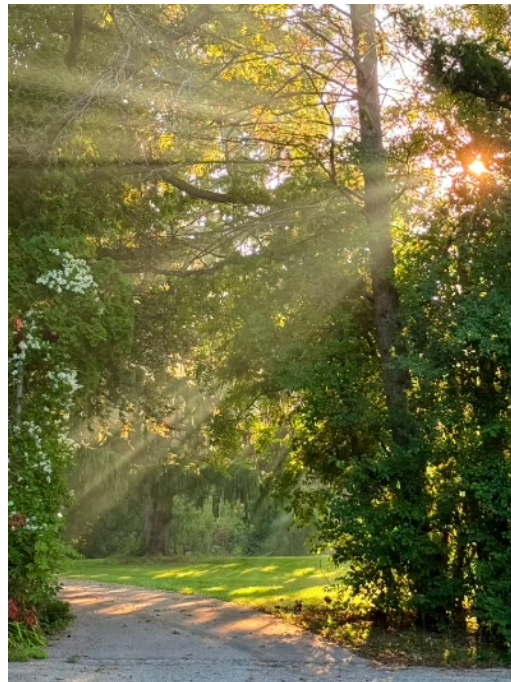
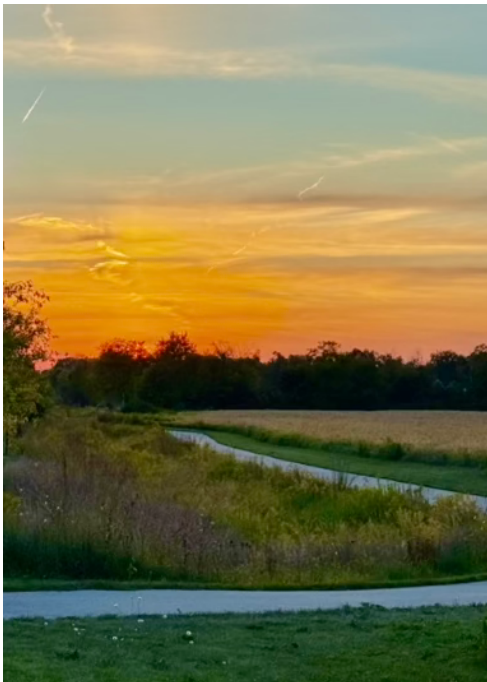


Leading Lines

IMAGES FROM THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING

**The images on this page
are by
Judy Jorgenson.**

The sunset photos are “Leading Line” images. The photo of the corn field is trying to find a way to show how tall the corn was.



BEFORE & AFTER IMAGES FROM THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING



Temple of Apollo - BEFORE
Color Image by Steven Hillmann



Temple of Apollo - AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER IMAGES FROM THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING

Nature's Symmetry - BEFORE
Color Image by Jeff Chemelewski

The Monochrome Image of *Nature's Symmetry* below received an *Honorable Mention* at the 4th Friday Art Event at the Dole on October 24. It was entered in the Mixed Art Competition, with art is many genres, not just photography.

Congratulations Jeff!



Nature's Symmetry - AFTER

THE FUTURE OF CLCC

Notes from the October 14 Meeting ~

Submitted by Steven Szalaj

There were 11 members at the meeting this month. The meeting began at 7PM with Show & Tell. Then we watched and discussed a video about food photography.

Show & Tell - The topic of the month was *Leading Lines*.

- Trevor Sova: Mt Shasta, eagle, plane tracks, water lilies
- Steve Szalaj: Fall color, Eiffel Tower, street scenes in Passau, Bavaria, Taliesin in Wisconsin
- Steve Hillmann: Porch of Maidens, pillars and Acropolis, street graffiti
- Royal Pitchford: Traffic, hose, lines
- Mel Marilim: Railroad Tracks
- Linda Hopp: Flag, squirrel, monarch, Santorini, cave, heron
- Judy Jorgenson: Corn field, sunset, rays, sunsets, moon on shore
- Jeff Chemelewski: The "Wave"
- Doug Frey: Flint Creek, Gibraltar, road in fall, trees in California, lake pictures, meadow

Before & After

- Jeff Chemelewski: Nature's Symmetry
- Steve Hillmann: Roman Ruins

Photographing Food (click the title to view the video):

- Christopher Cina: [10 Tips for BETTER Food Photography | A Video for Beginners](#)
- After watching this video, we had a good discussion of the points described in it.

A REMINDER: **Show & Tell** and **Before & After** run more smoothly if images are sent to Doug before the meeting instead of on flash drives given to him at the meeting. He would like them a few days before the meeting so he can prepare the presentation. See page 15 for more information.

The November meeting will showcase your photos of FALL COLORS for *Show & Tell*. *Before & After* is always interesting especially if you are new to editing. Be sure to send your fall color images to Doug - both successful images and problem images.

Take a moment to contribute to the Facebook **Crystal Lake Camera Club Group Chat** page (see page 17).

The **Landscape and Nature Photography** small group is meeting regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Doug Frey's home (see page 18).

Have an idea for an outing? If you have an idea or plan and want company, let Doug Frey know.

The **CLCC Breakfast Meeting** is the last Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted due to holidays, etc.) at Buttered Toast by Home Depot on Randall Road, Algonquin. All are welcome. Let Karl G. know ahead of time if possible, but don't let that stop you if you didn't (see page 20). The next breakfast meeting is Saturday, November 29.

Become an active CLCC member - your presence, your contributions, your participation is what will elevate the club experience for everyone. Most everything that happens in the club is by volunteers, that is, members choosing to participate because they *love photography*. CLCC needs you!

CHICAGO AREA CAMERA CLUBS ASSOCIATION

Editor's Note: CLCC has long held membership in CACCA. This is a letter to area camera clubs from CACCA President Christine Foley (edited for brevity and clarity). More participation in CACCA will help give our club more value our membership. Perhaps you would like to attend the CACCA meetings.



**Chicago
Area
Camera
Clubs
Association**

Good Afternoon Club Members,

I am Christine Foley and I have the honor to serve as CACCA's president for the upcoming season.

I would like to welcome all CACCA clubs and club members back to a new year with CACCA. We are excited to offer a few beneficial programs at our in person meetings/print competitions this year.

At our first in-person meeting on **Saturday, November 8, 2025**. CACCA meetings are held at Northwest Covenant Church, 300 N. Elmhurst Ave. Mt. Prospect

Please join us for this important presentation at **9:00 AM** sharp:

Becoming a Better Judge for the CACCA Community

presented by Bob Benson and Bill Brown

As a photographic group, we are always looking for ways to improve the judging experience and achieve consistency in our scores. The purpose of this presentation is twofold: first, to get judges to appreciate and use the range of scores on a consistent basis, and second, to obtain more judges from those that are considering helping the CACCA community. All members are welcome, even if you just wish to get a better understanding of the judging process. We hope that all current judges can participate. (Judges will be marked as having attended the training program.)

The presentation will cover judging flaws and myths, concepts for a good image, current scoring guidelines, and reviewing various images, including some with a wide range of scores.

We hope to pack the church so please encourage your members to come to November's important program.

Even if you do not plan on judging, this program will help you to select your images to enter into competitions and will give you insight of what is behind the scores you receive.

Let this year bring great participation in both your club's and CACCA's activities along with a chance to learn and socialize with old and new friends. Our goal is to provide members with more educational opportunities.

Suggestions are welcome! Here's the dates and topics for future meetings:

- November 8, 2025: Becoming a Better Judge for the CACCA Community - Bob Benson, William Brown
- January 10, 2026: Mini Session: Getting to know the CACCA Website, Judging Etiquette - Marie Rakoczy
- March 14, 2026: Essentials of a Strong Monochrome Image
- May 9, 2026: TBA

Check out the **CACCA Website** (caccaphoto.org) for more information about these programs, and other club and individual activities.

Looking forward to the year ahead. See you in November!

Sincerely,

Christine Foley

CACCA President

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.

November 11 *Image Theme: Fall Colors*; Presentation, *TBA*; Show & Tell; Before & After

December 9 *Image Theme: Food*; Presentation, *Black & White Photography by Peter Pelke*; Show & Tell; Before & After

January 13 *Image Theme: Snow*; Presentation, *TBA*; Show & Tell; Before & After

February 10 *Image Theme: TBA*; Presentation, *TBA*; 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 Doug Frey (doug.frey@me.com) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date. You can also bring them on a flash drive, but submitting them earlier is preferred, and helps the presentation go more smoothly.

For Before & After: submit *pairs of JPG images* to Doug Frey (doug.frey@me.com) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date, or bring the images on a flash drive (submitting them earlier is preferred, and helps the presentation go more smoothly). The pairs would include the image as it came out of the camera and the image after post-processing. Be prepared to tell (and perhaps even show) the changes that were made.



“Carl’s gone from leaf-peeping to full-on leaf-stalking.”

BETTER BLACK & WHITE

WHEN
December 9, 2025
7pm - 9pm

WHERE
Algonquin Township Building
3702 US HWY 14
Crystal Lake IL 60014

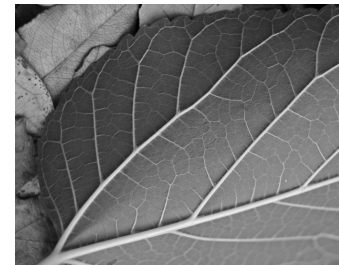
PRESENTER : Peter J. Pelke II

QUESTIONS : 847.346.9957

GOOD



BETTER



BEST



GALLERIES, STORIES, VIDEOS AND INSPIRATION ON THE WEB

(Click any bold-face heading, or underlined text, to follow the link)

These incredible photos show you life from a bug's perspective

The realm of insects is right in front of our eyes, filled with kaleidoscopic characters flaunting vibrant colors and dramatic action. But it's so minuscule, it's easy to miss. That's why several years ago, photographer Takuya Ishiguro began altering his camera, adding a magnifying lens between the sensor and main lens. The new perspective left him with "a deep respect for nature's inventiveness."

Exposure One Awards

Exposure One Awards honor exceptional black and white images exploring the rich traditions and enduring power of black and white photography. There is the Nature Photography Contest (that is still taking entries until December 7), the One Shot Photo Contest, and the Photographer of the Year. The Winners Gallery, which has amazing images in many different and unusual categories.

2025 Nikon Photomicrography Competition

Nikon Small World is regarded as the leading forum for showcasing the beauty and complexity of life as seen through the light microscope. The Photomicrography Competition is open to anyone with an interest in microscopy and photography. The video competition, entitled Small World In Motion, encompasses any movie or digital time-lapse photography taken through the microscope.

15 Stunning Photos That Will Make You Appreciate The Visual Appeal of Shadows in Photography

Photography, as we all know, is about capturing light. And where there is light, there will be shadows. It is these shadows that add some wonderful characteristics to your photographs in the form of perspective and dimension. This post is a collection of photographs that utilize shadows as an integral part of their composition.

Ansel Adams Photographs - Records of the National Park Service

In 1941 the National Park Service commissioned noted photographer Ansel Adams to create a photo mural for the Department of the Interior Building in Washington, DC. The mural project was halted because of World War II and never resumed, however the photographs remained. In 1962, the photographs were accessioned into the holdings of the Still Picture Branch at the National Archives and Records Administration. This is a catalogue of these images with unrestricted digital access.

2025 Nikon Comedy Wildlife Awards

Here are Nikon Comedy Wildlife Finalists! So many wonderfully funny images have been submitted, but the judges have chosen the best of the 2025 entries. There are 40 individual images, 3 Portfolio Category images and many videos to view. Check out the gallery page to see them all!

Join the **Crystal Lake Camera Club Group Chat** on FaceBook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/446897199179146> or scan this QR Code:

This is a closed group, so only members have access. Request membership through the page. Then, post your favorite images, join in the discussions, share information about photo outings, speakers, contests, etc.

Only group members will see your posts.



IMAGE THEMES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

NOVEMBER THEME: FALL COLORS

How do you show motion in a still photo? Do you have some examples? How did you achieve it? Share some of your images with CLCC!

To help you plan ahead, these are the Image Themes for the next several months:

December	Food
January	Snow

Please submit your images to Doug Frey on the Sunday before the club meeting. Show & Tell and Before & After run more smoothly if Doug can prepare the presentation. See page 13 for more information.

LANDSCAPE & NATURE SMALL GROUP

When: Third Wednesday each month, 7PM

Where: 711 Glacier Parkway, Algonquin

Phone: 224-406-3692

RSVP: doug.frey@me.com

This small group meets in Doug Frey's home on the Third Wednesday of the month, 7PM. There are wide ranging discussions from beginning landscape photography, to post-processing, prime locations, both near and far, everything in between, and sometimes beyond! Photos are shared and comments made. It is a very friendly group.

Meetings are casual and relaxed. Any related discussion topics can be brought up. It is a great community learning experience. Let Doug know that you are interested! See him at a club meeting, or send him an email at the address above.

Doug gave this summary of the recent group meeting:

"At the meeting on August 20, our small group explored creative ways to share your photography—through prints for your home, unique gifts, or by participating in the 4th Friday Art event at the Dole. We expanded on that conversation at our August club meeting with a hands-on session focused on Lightroom masking, giving members the opportunity to explore and practice the tools in more detail."

Grow your photographic art even further - come to the small group!

CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

President	<u>Judy Jorgensen</u>
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	<u>Gail Schulz</u>
Board Member	<u>Rich Bickham</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 szjsings@mac.com.

Please make your submission by the 22nd of the month.

Helpful Resources

***Contribute to this page!** If you have resources that you find useful, 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. Send your contributions to szjsings@mac.com by the 20th of each month.*

~SJS, Newsletter Editor

Profoto Tutorials, submitted by Kevin Getty:

Tips and Tricks

<https://profoto.com/us/tips>

A terrific collection to help photographers of any level.

Photographic Composition Webinar, submitted by Scott Larsen:

The Art of Photography: Crafting Compelling Compositions

tinyurl.com/5ak88xt6

Natural Habitat Adventures posts a weekly webinar. This hour-long video is very helpful.

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

Dan Anderson

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

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 landscapes and seascapes with interesting composition techniques you may want to try.

Willard Clay

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

(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."

(Helpful Resources, *continued*)

Resource for camera repair, contributed by Sandy Wittman:

ROYAL CAMERA SERVICE, INC.

1134 E Lake Street

Hanover Park, IL

(630) 372-6150

Sandy said: "I had my Canon 7D Mark II repaired there this fall. They did an excellent job in about 10 days. The price was very reasonable. I found them to be knowledgeable and professional."

Resource for infrared photography, contributed by Peter Pelke

LIFE PIXEL Infrared Camera Conversions

<https://www.lifepixel.com/>

(866) 610-1710

Resource for purchasing, selling, trading and repairing used camera equipment

KEH

<https://www.keh.com/>

(800) 342-5534

"The original curator and reseller of rare and quality camera gear, KEH has always envisioned a better way to support the passion and profession of photography. We're proud to be the camera community's choice for gear that goes further. Field-tested. Expert-graded. Sustainable. Exchangeable. KEH-approved."

YouTube Channels by specific photographers

These were contributed by Doug Frey:

Nigel Danson - <https://www.youtube.com/@NigelDanson>

Adam Gibbs - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDyKBQGE7OOsWeQIPWqVSzw>

fototripper (Gavin Hardcastle) - <https://www.youtube.com/@fototripper>

Simon D'Entremont - https://www.youtube.com/@simon_dentremont

Mark Denney - <https://www.youtube.com/@MarkDenneyPhoto>

Thomas Heaton - <https://www.youtube.com/@ThomasHeatonPhoto>

Ian Worth - https://www.youtube.com/@ian_worth/

A great collection of "how-to" videos:

Providence Photography DFW

<https://www.youtube.com/@providencephotographydfw>

Photoshop Elements+: The Secret to Removing Impossible Backgrounds!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvAu7-WYXAc>

Last Saturday Morning Breakfast Meeting – Everyone invited!

Please join your CLCC friends for the casual breakfast meeting on the last Saturday of the month. Lively discussions, good food! This month's will be on **Saturday, November 29, 2025, 8:30 AM** at

Buttered Toast Restaurant, 2520 Bunker Hill Dr, Algonquin.

RSVP to Karl-Heinz Gabbey (khgabbey@aol.com) if you plan to attend.

Next month's breakfast meeting will be December 31.

Photo Ops At the Morton Arboretum

Vivid Creatures

An exhibition of giant, colorful sculptures as tall as trees is now open at The Morton Arboretum.

Guests of all ages can delight in an oversized deer, snail, squirrel, dragonfly, and sandhill crane—all native to northern Illinois—depicted in brightly decorated larger-than-life artworks up to 24 feet tall. The sculptures will be placed among the tree collections and natural areas of The Morton Arboretum.

The five sculptures were created exclusively by **Fez BeGaetz and Heather BeGaetz** of Portland, Oregon. Go **behind the build** and read about the inspiration and creative process behind the sculptures.



Vivid Creatures is free and is included with general admission to the Arboretum. Members always get in free and can visit any time without purchasing general admission. **More at mortonarb.org**.

Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum

Opens November 15, 2025, and goes through January 3, 2023, daily, 4:30 - 9:30 PM

Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum Explore 50 acres of the Arboretum's majestic trees during this one-of-a-kind spectacle of color, light, and sound. Be amazed by how light, color, and music transform this magnificent landscape of trees.

Guests of all ages will delight in the festive features and stunning light displays found along a fully ADA-compliant trail running through The Morton Arboretum's gardens and tree-filled landscapes.

Electric Illumination offers a special late-night Illumination experience on three Fridays: December 5, 12 and 19, 4:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Exclusively for adults 18 and older, *Electric Illumination* is a nighttime experience with different musical themes and a live DJ that make each week unique.

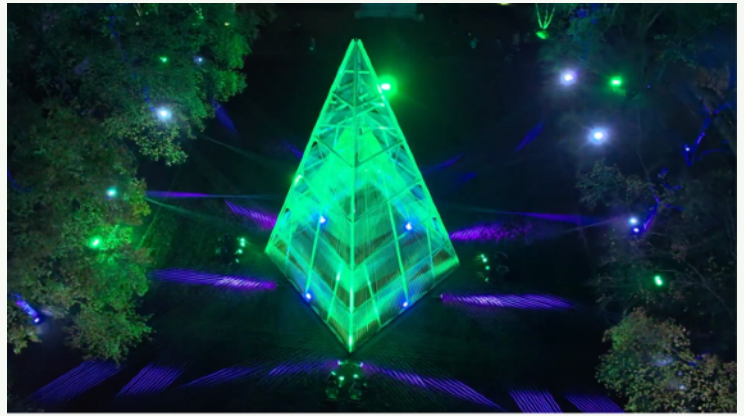
Tickets for these events can be purchased at **mortonarb.org**. Members receive a 20% discount.



Lightscape

Photo Op at the Chicago Botanic Garden November 14 - January 4

Step into an enchanting 1.3-mile trail of twinkling lights and show-stopping displays expertly curated anew each year. Bundle up, grab a hot chocolate, and see the Chicago Botanic Garden glow beyond the expected. Bold. Artistic. Unforgettable.



Cocktails Under The Lights - Enjoy a festive, adults-only vibe where you can be your merry ole self, complete with specialty cocktails and mocktails. For adults only (21+), November 19, December 4 and January 2.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW YOUR IMAGES

SECOND SATURDAYS AT STARLINE

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



2nd Saturday Art Event: December 13, 2025

Submission Deadline: Monday, November 17, 2025, 11:59 PM

Fee to Enter: \$25 for 3 Pieces

Theme for the December Event is ***It's a Wonderful Life*** (see Submission Form for details)

Theme entry not required to enter the show; there is a special medal for these entries.

Awards available for the juried show include:

- Best of Show (All entries): \$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
- Theme Award: Starline Medal

Click here for the **PROSPECTUS**

Click here for the **SUBMISSION FORM**



4th FRIDAYS ART EVENT AT THE DOLE

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

The next 4th Friday Art Event: **January 30, 2026**

There are no 4th Friday Art Events in November or December.

