



# The Grand Canyon Photography Club

NEWSLETTER

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## Inspiration For the New Year

*2015 starts with a celebration*

The Grand Canyon Photography Club will kick off 2015 with a New Year's celebration at the January 13 meeting. The meeting will begin at 7 pm at the Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center in Wellsboro with a segment of photographer Tony Sweet's Visual Literacy video, introduced by David Ralph. Following the video, Mia Lisa Anderson will unveil the slideshow of members' favorite images from 2014, originally scheduled for the December holiday party that was cancelled due to inclement weather.

In August 2010, renowned fine art photographer Tony Sweet led a weekend workshop for the club. In the segment of the video that will be featured, Sweet takes viewers into his studio to teach his digital image workflows and describes the real working environment of a successful professional photographer. He discusses how to build a photography business, presents hard criticism of examples of his early portfolio, and talks about the utility of belonging to a photo club and having a mentor. The video will end with a review of his more recent portfolio, where he discusses his thoughts behind the compositions and techniques chosen for the shots.

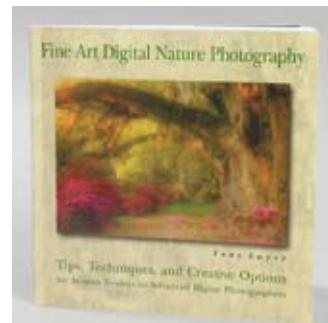
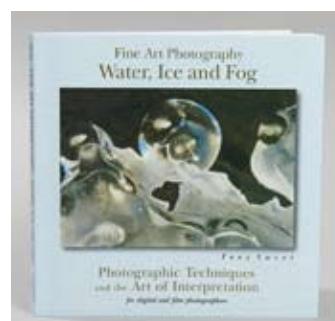


©Dwaine Gipe

Club members are asked to bring finger foods and snacks to share. The club will provide the beverages.

Join us as we start off the year learning from a fine art photographer, sharing our favorite images, and celebrating another year as a photography club.

Club president Bruce Dart will give away two signed editions of Sweet's books: *Water, Ice and Fog: Photographic Techniques and the Art of Interpretation*; and, *Fine Art Digital and Nature Photography: Tips, Techniques, and Creative Options for Serious Novices to Advanced Digital Photographers*.



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# THE GRAND CANYON PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

www.gcphotoclub.org

## 2015 Officers:

President: Bruce Dart

Vice President: Mia Lisa Anderson

Treasurer: Gary Thompson

Recording Secretary: David Ralph

Corresponding Secretary:  
Judith Giddings

## Directors:

2015-2016: Paul Bozzo, Suzan Richar

## Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Judith Giddings

Membership: Gary Thompson

Exhibits: Bruce Dart

Publicity: Lonny Frost

For more information, please contact:

Bruce Dart

E-mail: president@gcphotoclub.org

*Above: A "Christmas Tree" in  
the park outside City Hall in  
Suwanee, GA*

*May all your photos be merry  
and bright!*

## President's Message



© Bruce Dart

Each new year is a time when most of us reflect a bit on the successes and perhaps some shortfalls of the previous year and hopefully head into the new year with an optimistic view of new possibilities along with the challenges. My hope for the Grand Canyon Photography Club is just that. Build on the strengths of past successes, offer new challenges, and, most importantly, have fun along the way.

Monthly themes, I think, offer a challenge most months, along with the fun and impetus to actually do the assignment. Given most of our schedules, it would be easy for many of us to just say, "Oh I don't have time for that this month," or maybe it would be a sense of "I don't feel very creative about this." For me, it gives me a reason to photograph something that I might not have done otherwise.

To be sure, I have said those words when faced with themes. It is also tempting to just dig something out of the files from previous works. That doesn't help us grow, however. It IS helpful once in a while to revisit old files and give them a new twist. Most times I get

the sense that what I had done previously was a pretty good effort.

I have preached, here and in other venues, that creating new work is important. We continue to grow with those new assignments, even if we don't think so at the time. A creative vision sometimes visits us when we attempt new things. It is hard for us, for me at any rate, to look at things in the same old way and I get inspired if I think about it some.

A hugely important benefit to attempting new work is the resulting improvement in our abilities. I have a growing number of subjects that I never would have counted among things I chose to photograph that have ultimately been used for a display or print competition with more than average results. Creating these images is not just an investment in your time but an investment in YOU and your abilities that will pay big dividends along the way.

Go for it! It's going to be a good year.

Bruce Dart



## Treasurer's Report for December 2014

Beginning Balance	<b>\$1,617.32</b>
Cash IN (Dues)	-0-
Cash OUT	-0-
Bank fee (\$2 month)	24.00
Website fee	127.35
Ending Balance	<b>\$1,465.97</b>

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Gary Thompson, Treasurer*

## 2015 Club Dues Are Now Being Accepted

Please bring your cash or check (payable to GCPC) to the January meeting or send your dues to the GCPC treasurer:

Gary Thompson  
285 Owen Hollow Road  
Big Flats, NY 14814

Individual: \$20.00  
Family: \$35.00



©Sharon Connolly

## A Note About the Cover Photo by Ken Meyer

*I was intrigued by the geometry and lighting of the scene I found in part of my yard following a snowstorm early last February. My camera data reminded me that the scene was shot in the wee hours of the morning on a very clear night and judging from the shadow effects some moonlight was probably present. Several of the large Norway Spruce in the westward facing tree line there had the powdery snow from the blustery storm tiered against their large trunks. Some plant life in a rock garden in front of these as well as the snowcapped ridges of a rock wall in the foreground added some dimension to the picture. The shot was taken using a tripod through a window at a high ISO with a normal zoom lens (24-70 mm) and the picture edges were softened using a Gaussian blur in Photoshop.*



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## Nobody's Perfect

We live in a society that idolizes perfection. The models in ads and commercials are all tall, well built and attractive. Their hair is flawless, their skin is creamy, the men have "six packs", the women have flat stomachs and tiny waists; and they represent a tiny fraction of the appearance of the average person. Most of us will never look anything like these people no matter what we do. However, even though we can't achieve it ourselves we seem to use these individuals at the "standard" of what we should look like. Probably 95% of the population will never come close to this "standard". So why should it be the standard? A person's imperfections are what makes them different and unique. If everybody was absolutely perfect, how boring would things be?

The same can be said for a lot of photographs. Maybe we shouldn't always look for the perfect flower to shoot. One with some imperfections can have more character, while the impeccable one can be uninteresting.

One day I was playing around with some Camellias that grow in my back yard in Florida. They bloom in the winter and come in white, pink and red. My bush has white flowers. I was trying to take some interesting shots of a perfect flower surrounded by Spanish moss. It was nice, but somewhat lackluster. I went back outside to get additional flowers to add to the composition when I noticed the spent flowers on the ground beneath the bush. I picked up a couple of these and added it to my arrangement. I was much happier with the results. Not



only did these older flowers add more color to the image, the dark crinkled edges added texture.

Sometimes you take photographs of things that are past their prime without realizing it. What is one of the favorite subjects in the Wellsboro area? Fall leaves and color. But what are colored

leaves? They are leaves past their summer prime getting ready to fall off of their tree. Yes, they are beautiful, but in nature's terms they are not perfect. Even leaves that don't turn to bright reds, oranges and yellows can make very interesting pictures.



Then there are animals. I have a photograph of a rabbit that has a split in its ear and scar on its side. I can't present it here since it is an old slide. I don't know the rabbit's story, but can image that it escaped from a very traumatic experience; an attack by a fox or hawk or maybe a run-in with a barbed wire fence. When I look at that photo I immediately start to feel his fear and then elation during that event. You make a connection to the animal. I know that I have written about or shown you photographs from Homosassa Springs State Park near my home in Florida. This is a rescue and rehabilitation zoo. Most of the animals, reptiles and birds there are injured. Manatee rehabilitation is their specialty. I have seen numerous manatees there and at other locations in Florida. I have yet to see a perfect manatee. Every single one has scars on it, usually from boat propellers. It is just part of being a manatee in an area where there are lots of people.



### Annecdotes



*Ann Kamzelski presents tips, techniques, and creative ideas for getting great photos.*



While the creatures at this park are injured, it affords me a chance to get close to some birds or animals that I never would in the wild. Some of the injuries are very obvious, but in a lot of cases, you can take really nice photographs that don't highlight these disfigurements. Most of the birds have wing or foot injuries. The white pelican here is missing most of one wing. The photo where the missing wing is showing makes me sad. However, if I wait until the bird puts its wings down, I can get a pleasing pelican portrait without you even knowing that the bird is injured unless I tell you.

Now, let's get back to where we started: people. I am not a portrait photographer. We have other people in the club who are the experts at that. Nevertheless, I know that people like to look as perfect as possible when they have their picture taken. There are all kinds of computer programs available to make the features of a person flawless on a photograph. But sometimes the most attention-grabbing shots are the ones where the flaws all show.....sorry Linda.



Visit Ann's website at <http://photoartbyann.com>

Text and images by Ann Kamzelski



©Jennie Masser



## Seasonal Images



©Ann Kamzelski



©Lee Hoar



©Lee Hoar



©Bruce Dart



©Dwaine Gipe



©Sharon Connolly



©Suzan Richar



Cedar Key Sunrise, December 11, 2014 ©Ann Kamzelski





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©Max Johnson



©Jennie Masser



©Bob Bair



©Jack Preston



## GCPC 2015 Calendar of Events

**Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month  
at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center unless otherwise noted.**

**Mini-solo Shows at the Native Bagel, Central Avenue, Wellsboro:** January, Nancy Bickham; February, Bruce Dart; March, Sandy Foor & Sheila Bunch.

**The Warehouse Theatre:** Various members.

**January 9:** Video by Tony Sweet; Slideshow of members' 2014 favorites.

**February 10:** *Black and White*, Mia Lisa Anderson; Theme, *Water and Ice*; Critique leader, Ken Meyer

**March 10:** *Banff Island Travelogue*, Jack Preston; Theme, *Black and White*, Critique leader, Ken Meyer

**April 14:** *Sports Photography*, Bill Ennis; Theme, *Texture*, Critique leader, Paul Bozzo

**May 12 - Low light**, David Ralph; Theme, *Graffiti/Street Art*, Critique leader, Gary Thompson

**June 9** - Creative Photo Shoot at the home of Ann Kamzelski, no critique

**July 14-** *Colors*, Paul Bozzo; Theme, *Reflections*, critique leader, Ann Kamzelski

**August 11** - *Perspective/use of different lenses*, Ann Kamzelski; Theme, *Fireworks, low light*; Gary Thompson

**September 8**-*Architecturalphotography*, Gary Thompson; Theme. *Leading lines*; Ann Kamzelski

**October 13** - TBA ; Theme, *Ruins*, Ann Kamzelski

**November 10** - *Composition*, Ken Meyer; Theme, *Autumn Colors*, Ann Kamzelski

**December 8** - Holiday Party

Please contact Bruce Dart at [bdphoto@ptd.net](mailto:bdphoto@ptd.net) if you are interested in displaying your photos at the Native Bagel or if you have images suitable for display at the Warehouse Gallery.

## Mystery Macro

How observant are you?

Maggie Holmes, Jerry Crawford, and Dave Ralph guessed last month's mystery, the eye of an eagle.



©Ann Kamzelski



What kind of critter goes with this eye? This series of Mystery Macros includes a mix of birds, animals, insects, & reptiles. Send your guess to [wgiddings@epix.net](mailto:wgiddings@epix.net)



©Ann Kamzelski



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## January 13 Meeting At a Glance

*New Year's Party*

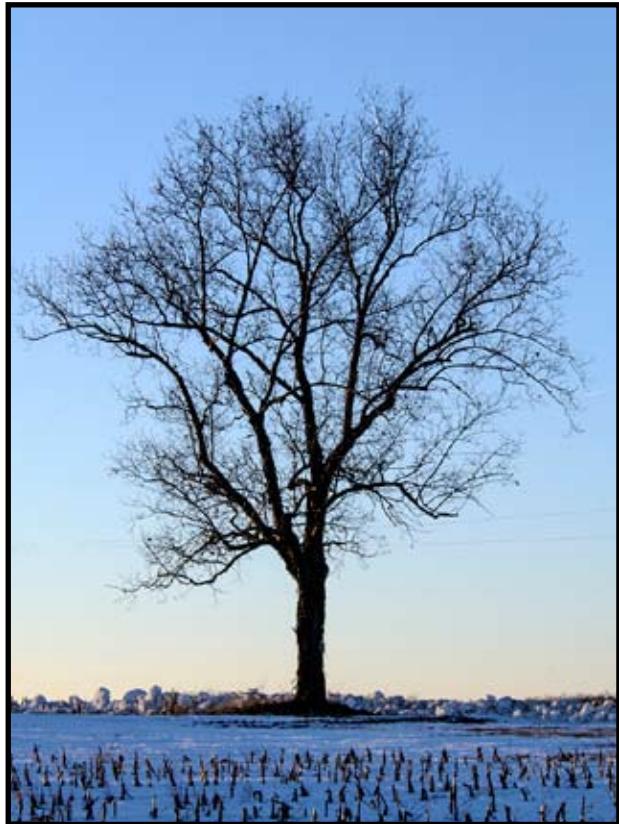
Tony Sweet Video: *Visual Literacy*

Slideshow of favorite photos from 2014  
Presented by Mia Lisa Anderson

Everyone brings snacks to share  
Beverages: Suzan Richar



©Paul Bozzo



©Ken Meyer

## Check Out These Websites

**How to Take Sharp Images:** A tutorial on how to achieve clean, crisp, perfectly sharp images.  
<http://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-take-sharp-digital-images/>

**The Concept:** The importance of identifying a concept behind each image as a way to strike a chord between yourself and the viewer. From *Outdoor Photographer* author/photographer Guy Tal. [http://www.outdoorphotographer.com/locations/north-america/the-concept.html#.VKwpw8Yk\\_8s](http://www.outdoorphotographer.com/locations/north-america/the-concept.html#.VKwpw8Yk_8s)

**The Ugly Hedgehog Photography Forum:** According to GCPC member Jerry Crawford, "I enjoy the forum very much. I am sure others from the club would also." Content includes a general photography discussion, galleries, photo analysis, contests, and more.  
<http://www.uglyhedgehog.com>