

The Art of Photographing Mushrooms and Flowers

The May 13, 2025 Grand Canyon Photography program will feature “Mushroom and Floral Photography” and will be a panel presentation conducted by club members Missy Volino, Emily Kreider, and Tana Carpenter. The program will begin at 7 p.m. at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA after a short business meeting.

“Floral and Mushroom photography is really an offshoot of Landscape photography, but in some ways far easier because it usually doesn’t involve travel,” offered Tana Carpenter. “We can find a beautiful specimen within a short distance.”

While accessibility can be easy, it’s important to work in the right light, find a solid composition, choose the right camera settings, and post-process the files to achieve that top-notch final image.



©Tana Carpenter



©Missy Volino

When photographing flowers and mushrooms, photographers are generally after one of two types of looks: sharp throughout the frame or shallow focus. When shooting mushrooms, it’s often necessary to get down and dirty, as they don’t grow in the most glamorous places.

The panel will be looking at examples of some of their favorite floral and mushroom photos, and discussing the camera settings, lenses, composition, and artistry that went into creating them.



©Emily Kreider (2)

In This Issue

President’s Message	page 2	Treasurer’s Report, Club Reminders	page 5
Meeting Minutes	page 3	Composition Corner	page 6
One Minute Musings	page 4	Programs, Themes	page 7
		Critique Images	pages 7-8



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We've often heard the term "closure" used during our image critiques, but what exactly does it mean?

Closure is one of the Gestalt Principles of human perception. We like to "group similar elements, recognize patterns, and simplify complex images" when we look at objects. As photographers, we can use those principles to make our images more pleasing to viewers.

One loose German translation I found for "gestalt" was "unified whole." Gestalt principles were created in the 1920s by German psychologists Max Wertheimer, Kurt Koffka, & Wolfgang Kohler. Some common Gestalt Principles are: Figure/Ground, Similarity, Proximity, Continuity, Symmetry, and Closure.

As humans, we like to see complete shapes so we automatically fill in the missing part of a shape—we complete it. Our brain simplifies what it sees when we look at something. This principle tells us that when we make an image, we don't have to show the whole of something for our viewers to know what it is. This gives us more freedom in our compositions and can make our images more interesting and keep the viewers' attention longer.

This can be achieved by cropping after the fact, but I'm referring more to a deliberate choice as we compose an image. This means leaving out a significant portion of your subject, not a tiny corner.

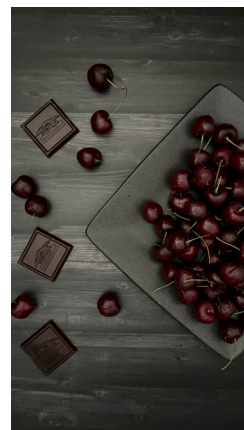


In this image of raspberries and chocolate, I left almost half the white plate out of the composition, but that's okay because the viewer's brain will recognize it as a plate and "see" the rest of it. The same holds true for the bowl of raspberries. Two more examples show the same use of closure. The viewer doesn't need to see the entire bowl or the whole wooden spoon to know what the items are. This allows for tighter compositions.

Try using closure on some of your next images and see what you think. If you'd like to see examples of some of the other Gestalt Principles, check out the pdf on the club website home page.

Have fun and keep creating.

Mia



*All Images this page
©Mia Lisa Anderson*



GCPC April 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The April 8, 2025 meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club was called to order by President Mia Lisa Anderson. There were three guests in attendance, Kathy and Marwin Cummings, and Carol Troutman. Mia asked if there were any additions to the minutes from the March meeting as they appeared in the newsletter and if not, a motion to approve was needed. The motion for approval was made by Missy Volino, seconded by Dennis Stager, and approved by the majority of the membership in attendance. The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Gary Thompson. We had a beginning balance of \$3,026.31 and an ending balance of \$3,228.31. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Karen Mitcheltree, seconded by Will Slotter, and approved by the majority of the membership in attendance.

There are still months in need of volunteers to provide a snack and beverage for the meeting, so if you are interested in filling one of these slots, please contact Mia. The openings are May, July, and November.

Our member show this year is titled "Through Our Lens". An email was sent out with the guidelines for the entries. Our club is responsible for hosting the reception for the show, so we need a volunteer to coordinate the event, as well as volunteers to provide food and beverages, volunteers to assist with refilling items, and also with clean-up. Please help to make our show a success and volunteer. The reception is Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 2-4 p.m.

Mia will be having an exhibit of her night photography in the atrium at Gmeiner in May and has extended an invitation to the membership for her reception on May 3, 2025 from 2-4 p.m.

It is time to change the display at the Warehouse Theater, so if anyone has Springtime images and would like to display them, please contact either Mia or Bruce Dart.

At the time of the meeting, there are still 13 members with unpaid dues. If you want to continue your membership, please contact Mia or Gary.

Without any further new business, a motion was made to adjourn the business portion of the meeting by Missy Volino, seconded by Sharon Connolly, and approved by the majority of the membership in attendance.

Our program for this evening was presented by Bruce Dart and entailed how to prepare your images for exhibit. This included framing, matting, mounting, and more. Thank you to Bruce for this comprehensive demonstration!

*Respectfully submitted,
Tana Carpenter
Recording Secretary*



This is Home

I often caption my photos with that phrase...It's one of the keywords for my business, PA Suncatcher-Linda Stager. Those words go a lot of places with me.

Home...I grew up here. I've lived here my whole life. And I love it here. Many of you do.



©Linda Stager

It occurs to me that this love of our area has been a winning combination for me. When you love something so much, it shows in your photography. Emotion counts. I try to make sure my photos have emotion. I call it "the soul of my camera".

I don't have to go to other places (although I do) to capture stunning moments with my camera. It's anything but ordinary here; it's extraordinary.

Stunning moments exist here –the real skill is to see past the familiarity, to consciously fall in love with Home, where emotion is so transparent.

We can capture the best of rural living close to our homes: amazing structures with character, green space, intriguing weather, wildlife, people, flowers, and charm, if you recognize it as that.

I suggest this month that we head out to our favorite locations with a fresh perspective that comes from our love of home. The inspiration is already here, right down the road from where we live. Let's revisit our favorite scenes. For a new, loving look...

This is Home....



Club Reminders Critique Submissions

Please send critique submissions (or other images you'd like to submit for the newsletter) to Mia at: mialisa1957@gmail.com. Follow the guidelines we have always used, i.e. 1024 or 2048 pixels on the long side and one submission per critique. Remember to put your name in the file name, e.g. anderson_tulips.

Treasurer's Report	
Beginning Balance	\$3,228.31
Cash IN	
2025 Dues	\$80.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	\$3.00
Ending Balance	\$3,305.31
<i>Respectfully Submitted</i>	
<i>Gary Thompson, Treasurer</i>	

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

2025 Officers:

President: Mia Lisa Anderson

Vice President: Missy Volino

Treasurer: Gary Thompson

Recording Secretary:
Tana Carpenter

Corresponding Secretary:
Linda Stager

Directors:

2024-2025:

Brad Adams, John Newell

2025-2026:

Greg Caulkins, Will Slotter

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Mia Lisa Anderson

Membership: Gary Thompson

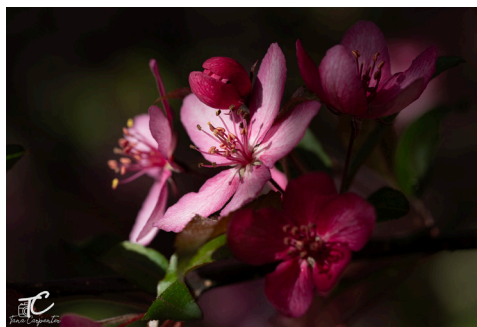
Exhibits: Open

Website: Mia Lisa Anderson

Publicity: Linda Stager

For more information, please
contact:

president@gcphotoclub.org



©Tana Carpenter



©Missy Volino



Talking About Black & White Composition

It's odd to discuss black-and-white photography when it's May and the colors are arriving for the season, but I have been interested in the topic lately, so it's on my mind.

The art of black-and-white photography isn't just about simply desaturating a color photo. There is more to it, and composition technique plays a significant role in creating good black-and-white prints.

Without the aid of hues and color, the photographer must rely on the interplay of light and shadow to define form, texture, and depth. Strong contrast in your photo becomes crucial to create visual impact and guide the viewer's eye where you want it. Shadows and lines take on a more prominent role. Patterns, both natural and man-made, create rhythm and appeal.



Images This Page © Linda Stager



As a photographer working in black-and-white medium, you simplify the scene, focusing on the essential elements. We often talk about simplifying the scene in composition discussions; more than ever, it's important now.

Of course, a black-and-white composition really is a shades-of-grey composition. To me, the most critical thing to think about is that we need to visualize how any scene translates to those shades of grey as we compose the photo—right through the viewfinder. It just doesn't work as well after the fact.

As always, think about how your viewer's eye will move through your photo. Use leading lines, the rule of thirds,

and negative space to direct your viewer through your scene. Pay attention to textures, which add depth. And think about shadows—those big, beautiful shadows that introduce drama and reveal form.

It's an art for sure. Try it and see if you like it.





GCPC 2025 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 Deane Center, Main Street, Wellsboro:

May: Brad Adams

Mini-Solo Shows at Arise Cafe, Central Ave., Wellsboro:

May: Gary Thompson

The Warehouse Theater: Various Members

Programs and Themes:

May 3-25, 2025: *Bring on the Night* exhibit by Mia Lisa Anderson at the Gmeiner.

May 13, 2025: *Panel Discussion on Mushroom and Flower Photography.*
Critique: *Black & White Image.*

June 10, 2025: *Scavenger Hunt.* No Critique.

June 10-11, 2025: Entries for GCPC Exhibit accepted.

June 14, 2025: Opening Reception for GCPC Exhibit *Through Our Lens.*
2 p.m.-4 p.m.

May Refreshments:

Snack: No One

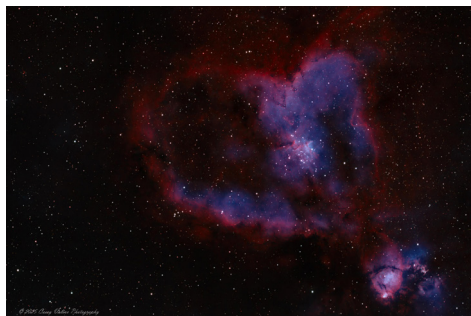
Beverage: Shannon Davis

The position of exhibit coordinator is currently open. If you are interested in taking it on, please contact Mia.

Critique Images: Night Sky



©Brad Adams



©Casey Volino



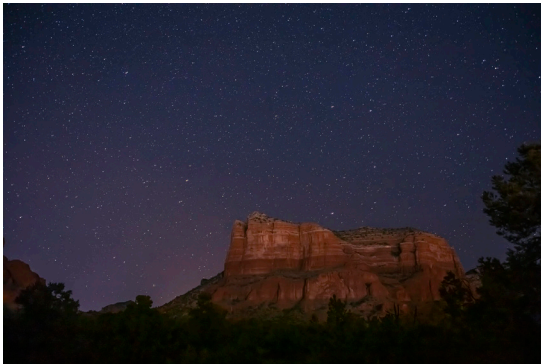
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Grand Canyon
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Grand Canyon Photography Club
www.gcphotoclub.org

Critique Image: Night Sky



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