

## “Unlocking Success: Ten Game-Changing Lessons I Wish I Had Learned Earlier.”

The May 14th Grand Canyon Photography Club meeting will feature PA Suncatcher Linda Stager's presentation on what she has learned (and wished she had known sooner) about photography. The program will begin at 7 p.m. at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA after a short business meeting.

“I didn't set out to be a photographer, and after I retired, I had no idea what I would do. But opportunities came, and things just took off. It's been a roller coaster ride with many highs and lows. Those lows often had me struggling with self-esteem and motivation. I finally figured out how to deal with those struggles by learning better technical skills and with some work on my emotions. I realized that it wasn't just me or a personal reaction to what I was experiencing. Many photographers struggle with the same things, even though most won't admit it. I set out to learn about how I felt and to change my thinking and my reactions.”

“I have now decided that sharing some of the techniques and information I have gleaned over the last five years might be helpful to other photographers. We all should help one another to be better. I hope my presentation does that.”

Stager continues, “For me, the key to success is having a sense of community; others of like interest who are supportive. That support makes a lot of difference in how I cope. Our photo club provides me with that sense of community and is one reason I encourage other photographers to join us. It's the concept of 'Ubuntu' on a local basis.”

During her presentation, Linda, a licensed social worker, will highlight a few of her prints, provide insight into the photography techniques that make her work stand out, and discuss the importance of maintaining good health.

The club's corresponding secretary, Linda, is a Wellsboro-based writer and photographer who specializes in local landscape photography but also enjoys the exhilaration of wildlife photography. She enjoys being a Sony Pro and shoots with Sony cameras and lenses exclusively. Stager is featured in a variety of magazines and tourist publications.

Stager, a member of the Professional Photographers of America, also owns Suncatcher Lodge, her studio in Wellsboro. Her website is [www.lindastager.com](http://www.lindastager.com). Her blog site is [www.lindastager.net](http://www.lindastager.net)



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I mentioned in an earlier message, I want to do more night sky photography this year. This genre of photography requires planning, patience, and cooperation from Mother Nature. It's definitely difficult for me, as I have the added challenge of needing someone else willing to go out in the dead of night with me since I don't drive (if anyone wants to volunteer for this, let me know.)

Anyway, clear nights have been few so far. I studied the weather and used my Photo Pills app to see where the Milky Way would be. This time of year it is visible in the Southeastern sky in the predawn hours. I live in town which is not an ideal location to try to shoot from, but I thought I'd try anyway just for fun. I set up my camera with my 16mm f/2 lens upstairs in my office which has a southern-facing window. My settings were ISO 3200 at 15 seconds. (Twenty seconds is the longest exposure time I can use with this lens and not get trailing in the stars, but I lowered it to 15 because of street lights, etc.). I had everything ready and went to bed. According to the app, the Milky Way core would be visible at 4 a.m.

At the appropriate time I went in to the office and took a couple of photos. Of course there was light pollution, but I could actually see the Milky Way in the image.

The next night it was supposed to be clear between 8 p.m. and midnight so I set up my equipment in my bedroom in front of the north-facing window to try to capture star trails. My Pentax K70 lets me use the built in intervalometer function in "Bright" mode which basically composites images, keeping only the parts that are brighter. So I set it to take 99 photos, one right after the other.



©Mia Lisa Anderson



©Mia Lisa Anderson

The settings this time were ISO 200 at 20 seconds of exposure time with the same lens.

I was pleasantly surprised with both outcomes. You don't always know what you'll get until you try.

Now I just need to be outside with a more interesting foreground!

Have fun and keep creating.

Mia



## GCPC April 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The April 9, 2024 meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club was called to order by President Mia Lisa Anderson. There was one new member in attendance, who joined the club and one guest. Mia asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting as they appeared in the newsletter. The motion to approve, made by Paul Bozzo and seconded by Will Slotter, was carried by a vote of the members in attendance.

Treasurer Gary Thompson gave the Treasurer's report, stating the club's beginning balance was \$2,958.18 and ending the month with \$3,015.18. President Mia asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, which was made by Dennis Stager, seconded by Will Slotter, and approved by the membership. Gary reported that there are still 14 members, whose dues are still outstanding. If they are not paid by the end of the month, those members will be moved to the inactive database.

Mia reminded the members that there are still openings available to those who wish to exhibit their photos. The venues where we can exhibit are the Arise Cafe, Warehouse Theater, and the Deane Center. John Newell is the contact person for the exhibits, so if anyone is interested, please contact John for further information.

Last month, the membership had approved for books to be purchased in memory of Curt Sweely and Dr. Ken Meyer. Mia stated that she had purchased the books and the one for Ken Myer is *Yosemite Sanctuary In Stone*, as Ken enjoyed nature and did work in the parks during the summer. Mary Sweely provided a title suggestion to Mia, which was *Catch of The Day*, a book of life lessons through the love of fishing. The books will soon be available to view in the library. The cost of the books was \$92.

Coming up on Saturday the 13th, the Gmeiner begins its new monthly displays, with the woodworking displays in the main gallery and Curt

Weinhold's photography display in the atrium. The art auction to benefit the Gmeiner runs until May 1st, which is an online auction run by Jelliff's Auction and features donated pieces. You can go online to view the items and bid if you are interested in any of the artwork, with the monies going to support the Gmeiner. There is no new information on the Regional Juried Photography Exhibit being held at the Gmeiner in June. Our club is hosting the reception.

Rob at Hoyer's Photo Shop in Williamsport, has photography backdrops at a lower price, and if anyone is interested, please contact Rob at Hoyer's.

President Mia asked if there was any new business and with there being none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting, which was made by Gary Thompson, seconded by Missy Volino, and approved by the majority of the membership.

After the business meeting, Brad Adams gave a presentation on the Nature of Photography, followed by a brief refreshment break, and Gary Thompson leading the member photo submissions for critiques.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Tana Carpenter  
Recording Secretary



## Connections

As I am writing this, I just finished attending two local meetings --groups of like-minded people who share a common connection about a common interest. I like studying people and relationships and so I am musing this morning about those two groups and what I saw and how I felt.

A group gathers its strength from its individual members who give of themselves to advance the group's purposes. A group needs each individual member...and a group needs the connections between those members.

There was much to like about both meetings I attended. I saw good in many connections, but I also saw some ugly, too. Our job is to diminish the ugly, and accentuate the positives.

I have a book draft on my desk now called "Connections"...it's a series of essays I have written about some relationships I have and have had in my life. The good- and the ugly.

When it's published, it will be interesting to see how those relationship played out. Some bad relationships have righted themselves; some good relationships have tanked. Only the future will show us more about the people in those situations and how they respond.

Will you see yourself in my book? Maybe! The folks here in our photo club are all examples of connections.... we can set the standard for "exemplary groups"-- and exemplary people-- in my book....and in our group.

We do good things here and I am happy to be a part of making that happen. Let's all work together to support, encourage, and promote what we all love: our photography passion. Thanks to those who make the club so good: our officers, our presenters, and you!



©Linda Stager

## NEEDED

- Individuals willing to help organize the reception for the June Juried Photography Exhibit.
- GCPC has agreed to host this reception which will be held on Friday evening, June 14th.
- Club members will need to help set-up and clean-up as well as bring food items.
- A sign-up sheet will be available at the May meeting. Please help with this event. It is our way to "repay" the Gmeiner for free meeting space, and a successful reception is a positive reflection on our club.

Thank you.



## 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](mailto: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.

### The Grand Canyon Photography Club

#### 2024 Officers:

President: Mia Lisa Anderson

Vice President: Missy Volino

Treasurer: Gary Thompson

Recording Secretary:  
Tana Carpenter

Corresponding Secretary:  
Linda Stager

#### Directors:

2023-2024:  
Bob Bair, David Ralph

2024-2025:  
Brad Adams, John Newell

#### Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Mia Lisa Anderson

Membership: Gary Thompson

Exhibits: John Newell

Website: Mia Lisa Anderson

Publicity: Linda Stager  
For more information, please  
contact:  
[president@gcphotoclub.org](mailto:president@gcphotoclub.org)

#### Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$3,015.18
Cash IN	
2024 Dues	\$40.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	\$3.00
Memorial Books	\$92.00
Ending Balance	\$2,960.18
<i>Respectfully Submitted</i>	
<i>Gary Thompson, Treasurer</i>	



*Both Images*  
©Linda Stager



# The Power of Closure

Mia presented a critique photo at our last meeting that I very much liked. It was the photo of the bourbon-barrel aged maple syrup and the pancakes. What a delicious photo in so many ways!

I commented that I thought her cropping of the photo was exquisite. It was not a traditional crop, but it worked perfectly. One of the things I loved the most about it was how she used Gestalt Theory and the closure technique. It worked so well!

Closure is a technique I learned about right here at a photo club meeting. Simply put, you can cut off part of your photo and get away with it. When we look at a "closure" photo, the human brain fills in the gaps. Our brain can see only part of the scene and yet recognize the whole of it.

The first time I did that with a photo was with an elk photo. I didn't know why I did it, but I knew I wanted to try.

That elk was mad, and I could see its whale eye. I wanted to accentuate that look, and if I had done a traditional crop, I wouldn't have seen the eye like I wanted to. The story was in that eye, so I cut off its antlers to that I could crop closer than normal!



©Linda Stager



©Linda Stager

I then brought the photo to critique at a meeting and asked about how the experts here felt about it. And guess what! It was okay...because of Closure.

One of the prints I submitted to our show last summer used closure. I cropped most of a barn out of the photo because we all know what a barn looks like. I wanted us to savor the parts of the scene I thought were important.

It worked!

The next time you prep a photo, think about how Closure might work. Maybe it's the perfect photo to try. You'll never know until you try it. And maybe, like Mia's print, it will be exquisitely perfect.



# GCPC 2024 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 2024: Greg Calkins & Emily Kreider  
June 2024: Linda Stager

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

May: Tana Carpenter  
June: Mia Lisa Anderson

### The Warehouse Theater: Various Members

John Newell is our new coordinator for displays at the Deane Center and Warehouse Gallery. Contact him if you are interested in displaying at one of our venues.

### Programs and Themes:

May 14, 2024: *10 Game Changing Lessons I Wish I Knew Sooner* presented by Linda Stager. Critique: *Nature*  
June 11, 2024: *Scavenger Hunt. No Critique*  
July 9, 2024: *Panel Discussion: Equipment, Environmental, & Personal Safety When Out Photographing.* Critique: *Photo from Scavenger Hunt*  
August 13, 2024: Club picnic. No Critique.  
September 10, 2024: *Outing to be determined.*

### May Refreshments:

Snacks: Diane Cobourn  
Beverages: Paul Bozzo

What is this? Send your guess to: [mialisa1957@gmail.com](mailto:mialisa1957@gmail.com)

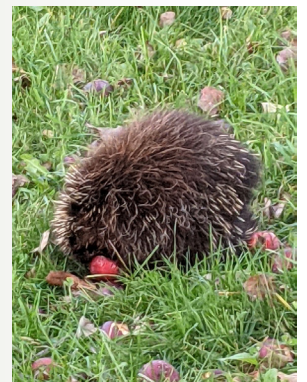
Mystery Macro images kindly supplied by Maggie Holmes



## Mystery Macro

How observant are you?

No Guesses:  
A Porcupine





**Grand Canyon**  
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

**The Grand Canyon Photography Club**  
[www.gcpclub.org](http://www.gcpclub.org)

## The Story Behind the Photo Images



©*Bob Bair*



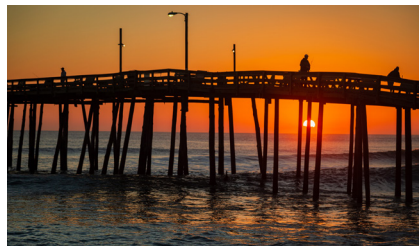
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## **The Story Behind the Photo Images**



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