

Grand Rapids Camera Club

Lights & Shadows

MAY 2023 VOL.124 NO.5



Jan Lewis

GRCC President Letter

Be A Doer, Become A Leader

Photography has always been an integral part of my life, whether documenting my family, recording family vacations, exploring the world, or creating art. I discovered GRCC in 2009 by a web search, attended a meeting and joined immediately. It was empowering to find a group of individuals who shared my passion for photography and I have learned and grown so much by being a part of this organization.

Why? Because I got involved. It is part of my personality, but whatever organization I join, I often end up in a position of leadership.... happened at my place of worship, PTA, arts organizations, the Quilting Guild, Audubon club, and GRCC. I am happy to give back to an organization because in giving I help the organization, but I also receive much back in rewards.

Leading GRCC (or any organization) through the pandemic has been a huge challenge. I did the best I could navigating waters that none of us had experience with. It wasn't perfect, but GRCC has emerged on the other side.

However, the last 12 months have been harder than all the months combined during the height of the pandemic, largely due to managing the hybrid meeting format. Covid-19 has changed people's expectations ... many are just as happy to sit at home and watch from the sidelines with virtual or recorded programs rather than gather in person. In my opinion, this makes them club observers, not participants. But obviously not everyone agrees with that assessment. Members have indicated they want organized, in-person activities... but when scheduled, they often don't show up. There seems to be a general malaise about getting involved or making commitments to an organization. These are issues that many organizations are facing, not just GRCC. We have tried to provide some virtual meetings and some in person meetings to accommodate these paradigm shifts in how people want to interact. But either way, **someone still has to organize and make those events happen.**

I have reached out to multiple members and made repeated announcements regarding the current open leadership positions, President and VP-Programs. Not one club member has stepped up to fill either position, or any board position for that matter. Those who are on the 2023-24 slate as officers or board members, are re-upping for a position they already hold (and I thank them for that!)

I have served as President for 2 terms (4 years), and prior to that 2 terms (4 years) as

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Programming VP. I have the utmost respect for Diane Durand who served as GRCC President for SIX TERMS.... that is 12 years!!! Thank you, Diane for your dedication and service to the club. Likewise, thank you to Jeanne Quillan who has served as our Competition VP for longer than I have been a member. Our Treasurer Christine Mooney, our newsletter editor Greg Ferguson, and digital coordinator Shealyn McGee-Sarns have also held those positions for many years, for which I am most thankful. Yet, new ideas often come from “new blood.”

GRCC has been in existence for over 100 years – 2024 will be our 125th Anniversary (we were founded in 1899)! **If GRCC is to move forward in 2024 and beyond, we need members willing to step into leadership roles.**

You can reach me at info@grcameraclub.org

2023-24 Election Slate

The officers up for election in 2023 are President, and Programs Vice President. These are two key officers who are integral to the functioning of our club. Program VP is particularly critical. Please consider stepping up to fill these important roles.

The 2023-24 Election Slate (at the time of May L&S publication)

President – VACANT

VP- Programming – VACANT

Secretary – Della Landheer

Board of Directors – 3 positions open 2-year term

Candidates: Steve Port, Mike Bergeon, Jack Eichner

Board of Directors – 1 position open 1-year term

Candidate: VACANT

Voting will take place in May.

Be a doer. Questions? You can reach me at info@grcameraclub.org . Thanks, Jan

Refreshments

At the last few meetings members have brought treats to share at our social time between the program and showing competition images. Based on the empty trays/containers, it appears that the membership appreciates having a little refreshment! We will have a table set up and encourage anyone who would like to bring treats to do so... store-bought or homemade. No need to sign up. We do suggest you stick to finger foods so that we don't need to deal with utensils.

Jan

April Image of the Month

Compiled by
Jeanne Quillan

The Image of the Month is chosen by one of our members as the image that appeals to them the most. Each month, the honor of choosing the image is assigned to a different GRCC member. This month's favorite image from our April competition was chosen by Della Landheer.

"Sharp-Tailed
Grouse Battle"
by
Jan Lewis



Chosen
by
Della
Landheer

ABOUT MY IMAGE:

I captured this image in March 2023 while on a private workshop with Paul Rossi in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Sharp-tailed Grouse congregate in late winter to early spring on snow packed breeding grounds called "leks" where the males perform a mating ritual for several hours each morning right after dawn. We were in blinds with tripods and gimbal heads and about 20 birds were approximately 20-50 feet in front of us. The males start to spar between each other, and eventually one lunges at the other, and then they are airborne, feathers, feet and bodies often intertwined. The fights are generally extremely short (less than 5 seconds) so I had to really stay focused and learn the bird's behavior to anticipate when a fight would occur. I was shooting in manual with auto ISO and my 500 mm f/4 prime lens. Minimum shutter speeds to stop the action were 1/4000 sec and as the light became clearer, I adjusted shutter up to 1/8000 sec. Some of my images were captured at ISO's as high as 20,000! You need good noise reduction software to help with ISOs that high. The animal eye tracking capabilities of my Canon R5 were critical to success. I took thousands of images and ended up with a few real gems like this one.

- Jan

WHY I LIKED IT:

Knowing that I would be selecting the Image of the Month, once I laid eyes on this image, I knew it was "the one." As a lover of nature and in particular photos of birds, this image took my breath away. One can feel the battle, the anger and the determination to win! A difficult-to-get action shot, the birds are sharply in focus and the neutral background compliments the subjects. Catching the birds in mid-air with great composition is truly a photographic feat. Kudos to the photographer.

- Della

Our May Meeting



Life as an Evolving Photographer

By Sheen Watkins - May 17, 2023 at 7:15 p.m.

Grand Valley Artists

2661 29th Street SE, Suite B, Grand Rapids, MI 49512. This is a storefront space behind Schuler's Book Store. It is at street level and there are no stairs (so access should not be an issue for anyone). When you enter there is a large gallery space in the front. Walk through to the back where the large meeting space is.

The meeting on May 17 will start at 7:15 p.m. (so plan to arrive at 7:00 p.m.).

Masks are encouraged, but not required to attend this meeting.



My Story

Gradual obsession is the clearest way of sharing my story. As a kid in Arkansas, my family packed up the car and traveled across the west for many of our vacations. While the roads were long, adventures in nature always outweighed our hours in the back seat.

My love of nature inspired many attempts at drawing, sketching. I tried so hard in art classes! My lack of eye to hand talent was a hard pill to swallow.

My subsequent adult career trajectory carried me far away from my potentially artistically creative side.

Throughout, constants emerged as a lifestyle. My happy outdoor zones. Travel. Hiking in the woods, high mountains and local forests. Riding horses. Listening, observing birds darting in the trees and feeders. Shushing down white, glistening mountains in the west. Leaning in to the warm Texas breeze as it pulls the sailboat across the reds and blues at sunset.

Gradual Obsession Leads to Photography

Always a birding enthusiast, birding as a significant hobby soon became part of our family lifestyle. After watching birds through binoculars, I jokingly shared my wish for a camera. When my husband surprised me in 2012 with a Nikon and two lenses, my approach? Gradual. The camera came out of the box one time in the first four months!

Then, the shift. On a 16-hour roadtrip, I pulled out the camera, manual and nature photography guide. I navigated every button, menu, settings listed in the guides. Arriving in Arkansas for Easter, I photographed just about everything that moved. Birds, skinks, lizards, flowers, turtles, squirrels and more.

Then, I loaded up my work onto my computer. While waiting for those first images to load, I was nervous. Nervous of my ability to execute what I learned. Was the learning going to translate into images that I felt good about?

Well, I guess the answer is yes.

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The initial dive switched to a full-on never leave my house without the camera mindset. Every night I immersed into learning. Photography techniques, post processing, time in the field consumed my free time. A full-on obsession for honing skills, playing with compositions and artistry.

I knew then, that some day, this hobby would evolve into a lifestyle.

An Evolving Circle

Today, I'm a full-time nature, travel and wildlife photographer, content creator, writer and offer individual/group workshops. I developed [Aperture and Light](#), originally designed as photography site dedicated to photographers on the go.

That too evolved to a photography lifestyle blog. For many of us behind the lens, we're not one dimensional. We travel, we're on the go, we embrace careers. Add in the events of 2020, and many of our travel lifestyles took on a different approach. My hubby, two dogs and I hit the road with our RV. The open road is a perfect pairing for our love of adventure, nature and photography.

Gradual Obsession Lands Here

As a photographer, there are times where it feels like we're spinning our wheels. But when looking backwards, you realize milestones along the way.

Today, I merge my photography and business worlds with client projects and content services. Working with individuals and small businesses, it's privilege to problem solve, use imagery and develop messaging and support others.

I enjoy helping others grow in their photography journey through group and individual workshops. Maybe even inspire their gradual interest to their own definition of obsession.

Audubon Society's national newsletters and award features my work across chapters and social sites. Over the past few years and today, my work appears in [The Leelanau Conservancy](#), travel magazines, art galleries, numerous articles and a news story on Fox 2 News in Detroit, Michigan. I was on the global photography & writing team for Light Stalking for a few years and contribute on occasion. Articles and photography are also on Loaded Landscapes.

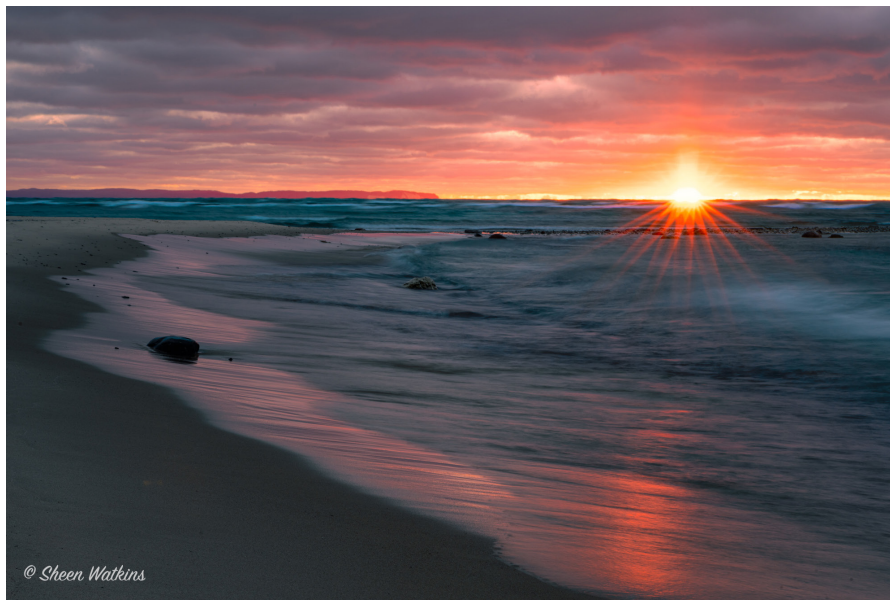
I serve as a Director on the board for [Northport Arts Association](#), a past board member for Saving Birds Thru Habitat and a sustaining member of [the Leelanau Conservancy](#). As a photo Ambassador for [Michigan State Parks](#) since 2022, it's a privilege to share Michigan's amazing parks, forests, lands and campgrounds.

My work is available through my Etsy shop [Sheen Watkin's Studio](#). I continue to engage in social media with Instagram: [swnaturephoto](#) and on my Facebook page: [Sheen's Nature Photography](#).

Sheen Watkins Presentation
Artwork Examples

See next page

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GRCC Assigned Subject List

2
0
3

May Take Three
June Circles



SUMMER BREAK

September . Floating
October..... Window Light
November.. Long Exposure
December .. Abstract

Competition Corner



By Jeanne Quillan, GRCC VP - Competition
photobug49@comcast.net or competition1@grcameraclub.org

Assigned Subjects For 2024

Please send me your suggestions for assigned subjects for 2024. The board will be voting on the suggestions in early May, and winning suggestions will be announced at the May general meeting.

May 2024 Assigned Subject

May – Take Three. You need to take 3 separate images of the SAME subject (3 different views).

Title the three images the same except include 1, 2 and 3 in your title.

Example: A_MyTitle_1_JohnDoe; A_MyTitle_2_JohnDoe; A_MyTitle_3_JohnDoe.

The three images will be judged and given one score.

OR: You may enter your three shots created as a collage as one image.

April AI Presentation

I hope everyone enjoyed Russ' presentation on AI technology and how it relates to photography which he presented at the April meeting. There was a lot good discussion on the matter. In the future, the board will be discussing how images created using AI will fit into our competition. In the meantime, so that all of our competitors are competing fairly and equally, here are a few points to keep in mind when entering your images.

- Entries must originate as photographs. Photographs are defined as images captured using light sensitive cameras.
- All entries and edits must be the photographer's own work.
- Entries may not be completely created within the computer and must be based on a photo taken by the maker.
- A photo of someone else's artwork (for example a photo from a wall mural, an illustration from a book or an image copied from the web) is NOT acceptable.

GRCC Competition

Congratulations to Roger Fry for earning his Senior Masters Award (1500 merit points).

Membership Manual

As I mentioned last month, please take a moment or two and check out the updated membership manual available on our website. It has been updated for 2023.

Jeanne



Back to the Future In Our Modern Era

In the movie, *Back to the Future*, Marty McFly is transported back to 1955 in a time traveling DeLorean built by Doc Brown where he inadvertently prevents his parents from falling in love. You may remember the story.

I feel like we just experienced a similar situation today in the world of photography, specifically cameras.

Transport your mind back to 1957 just as Norman Camera opens its first store. Film cameras ruled as digital was still some decades away, but there were photo trends then, the same as now. Markets developed for the miniaturization of cameras, specifically, pocketable all-in-ones.

Now, back to the future, our modern era. Today, the likelihood of a camera in your pocket is very high and in the format of a cell phone. Also, the picture quality today is excellent, as long as they are used within their intended range. Who knows the next step, perhaps a chip embedded in your brain capable of sending a digital file of anything you see through some post-processing software and onto the internet, etc. into a wondrous tomorrow.
(As long as you keep up with your future-forward eye exams !)

But wait, wait, the news headlines hint that we have recently broken out the DeLorean again and time warped back to an earlier era when pocketable all-in-ones shooting low res, poorly exposed, out of focus pictures were all the rage. Is this real or a sequel to the aforementioned movie?

But why? Today our camera club passionately awards highly detailed, pin sharp, well exposed pictures with its highest kudos. Doubt me? Check this out: [Bad Photos are 'In' Now, and That's Okay | PetaPixel](#)

I mean, "What the heck?"

Keep shooting!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve".

scharlesport@comcast.net

Outside The Box Challenge



Our “Out of the box” zoom sessions are proving to be fun and productive. If you haven’t attended a session yet, put it on your calendar. Even if you don’t submit images, you are welcome to join us and add to the discussion.

SESSION 4

It's Your Turn To

Fill The Box

SESSION 4

**SEND
IMAGES BY
MAY 20**

During our April session we talked about how to get “Inspiration” for your images. We covered “10 Ideas To Inspire Your Photography”. For those who attended we challenged you to create images where you used one or more of these ideas.

In our May session we will share & discuss those images with the group. Please send your images to Russ Barneveld via email or the WeTransfer application by May 20th. My email address is: barnever@gvsu.edu .
WeTransfer URL: <https://wetransfer.com> .

SESSION 4

**ATTEND
MAY 22
7 PM**

At our Session 4 on May 22nd our topic will be “It’s your turn to fill the box”. During this zoom session we would also like to have you share any images that you are proud of or images that you would like critiqued.

The past sessions covered
AI in Art and Photography (Session 1)
Break the Rules (Session 2)
Getting Inspiration (Session 3)

We would like you to submit images that were inspired by these topics. Send us as many images as you would like. During the zoom you will be able to share your images and talk about why and how you created the images.

Those images can also be sent to Russ or
WeTransfer URL above.

The zoom sessions are open to anyone who would like to attend.

Zoom Link:

<https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/98488913175?pwd=WkxCM1BxdFh-vaEtwcmlyMXhsSkh5UT09> .

If you have any questions, please contact Russ.
See you online at 7:00 PM on Monday, May 22nd.



Treasurer Reports

Christine Mooney,
GRCC Treasurer

Welcome New GRCC Members

Please welcome
Bruce Moore who shoots with Canon 60, and
Joel Westmaas who shoots with Apple iPhone, Minolta and Nikon.

Member Changes

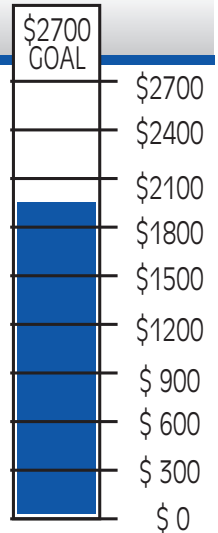
If your email or other information has changed,
email me at treasurer@grcameraclub.org
to help keep our membership list up to date.

Equipment Fund

A Big Thank You

to the members
who have donated
to our fund.

The total collected
so far is
\$ 1910.61 .



Our Equipment Fund

If you would like to make a tax-deductible
donation by check payable to
GRAND RAPIDS CAMERA CLUB,
you may send it to our Treasurer at:
Christine Mooney, 4280 Brooklawn Lane SE,
Kentwood MI 49512

We're
at
70%

Membership Dues

Membership runs January through December. Dues are just \$35 for each member. Please check the website for additional information regarding dues. We also have PayPal available on our Grand Rapids Camera Club website for your convenience (a small PayPal processing fee will be applied).

Click on "Join" tab to find the PayPal link.

Christine

The \$35 dues is for the entire year (It is not a monthly charge).

If you prefer to pay dues with a check, make it payable to GRAND RAPIDS CAMERA CLUB.
Send it to our Treasurer at: Christine Mooney, 4280 Brooklawn Lane SE, Kentwood MI 49512



Deadline For June Issue

Greg Ferguson
Lights & Shadows Editor

May 23, Tuesday, Noon

Please add this date to your smartphone calendar.

GREG

gcferguson@me.com

Before is much appreciated!