

JANUARY, 2024

Crystal Lake Camera Club

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



Winter

Color Image by Willard Clay

Used with permission from his "Therapy Photos #233"

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Special Guest for the March 12 Meeting: Willard Clay

At the March 12, 2024 CLCC meeting, we will have a special guest speaker, the photographer Willard Clay. A former Professor of Botany, Willard Clay has been a full-time photographer since 1982. Specializing in large format photography, Willard Clay has been the primary photographer for nine coffee table books and has been published in a myriad of calendars, magazines, books, and advertising agencies. His portfolio consists of large format film and high-resolution digital files ready for publication. You can view his images at www.willardclayphotography.com.

Several club members receive *Therapy Photos*, a regular email that Will sends to former students and camera club members. He says: "I started writing the letters in 2020 during the pandemic to keep my newsletter readers communicating with each other because we were sheltering in place. They touched people in ways I could never have predicted and my readers did not want them stopped, so here we are 3 years and 230+ letters later."

Be sure to plan to attend the March 12, 2024 meeting!

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.



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.

January 9	Competition (submissions are now closed) Show & Tell, Before & After
February 13	Competition Show & Tell, Before & After
March 12	Special Guest: Willard Clay

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 Rich Bickham (richbickham@comcast.net) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date.

For Before & After: submit *pairs of JPG images* to Rich Bickham (richbickham@comcast.net) on the **Sunday before the meeting** date. The pairs would include the image as it came out of the camera and the image after post-processing. Be prepared to tell (and even show) the changes that were made.

HOW TO ENTER THE FEBRUARY, 2024 COMPETITION

- Only DPI images (JPG) will be accepted for entry (no prints until further notice).
- No more than 2 Color images and 4 Mono images per entrant.
- Maximum JPG image size is 1400 pixels wide x 1050 pixels high.
- The deadline for jpg entries is Sunday, January 28, 2024.
- Entries must be sent to Rich Bickham (richbickham@comcast.net) by January 28, 2024.
- The judges will be emailed the images on Tuesday, January 30 and will have one week to score the images.
- The judges' scores will be submitted to Rich by Tuesday, February 6.
- Scores will be tallied and the results will be presented at the meeting on Tuesday, February 13.

Morning Breakfast Meeting – Everyone invited!

Please join your CLCC friends for the casual, monthly Saturday morning breakfast meeting. Lively discussions, good food! The next one will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024, 8:30 a.m. at Buttered Toast Restaurant, 2520 Bunker Hill Dr, Algonquin.

A SAMPLE OF THE 2023 WINNERS IN THE TOP PHOTO CONTESTS

We are all aware of the many photo contests available to photographers, both professional and amateur. A story from **Digital Camera World** has a compilation of the best of the best. Looking through the images can spark new ideas for your art. Here are two samples from this article. Follow [this link](#) to see all the photos.



The Candy Man (Street Seller in Mumbai), by Jon Enoch - Pink Lady Food Photographer of the Year 2023



Photo by Khanh Phan, awarded the top prize in the 2023 DJI Sky Pixel Aerial Photography Awards

Tips and Snippets

Submitted by Judy Jorgensen, CLCC President

Excerpts from: 23 Photography Tips for Beginners

DON'T USE A CHEAP FILTER

- An easy way to get blurry photos 100% of the time is to use a cheap filter.
- Look for blurry corners, flares, etc.
- Some photographers do not use a protective filter over their lens except in environments where protective eyewear is also needed.
- Buy name brand like B+W and not the first on the low-to-high price list on Amazon.



NIKON D5100 + 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 @ 26mm, ISO 400, 1/30, f/5.0



When you look at just a minimal crop, the blurriness is easy to see.

LEARN BASIC POST-PROCESSING

- Should be high on photographers priority list
- Cannot fix a bad photo
- Can turn a good photo into an exceptional photo
- Learn to make sure none of your edits are permanent (destructive editing)
- Best to edit in a software that does non-destructive editing
- Post processing is about imparting a mood and guiding our viewer's eye in the image
- Be subtle - better than looking over-processed



BACK UP YOUR PHOTOS

- Keep a backup of all your photos.
- At some point, your hard drive will fail.
- Use external hard drives.
- Use online storage sites.

The Future of CLCC

Notes and News from November 14, 2023

Submitted by Steve Szalaj, CLCC Newsletter Editor

The December 2023 meeting was cancelled, and the competition was re-scheduled to the January 9, 2024 meeting. Since there was no meeting in December, there were no images to share.

Morning Breakfast – Everyone invited!

Please come to the monthly Saturday casual morning breakfast meeting. The next one will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at Buttered Toast Restaurant, 2520 Bunker Hill Dr, Algonquin.

Upcoming meetings

- January 9, 2024 will have the results of the December Competition, and will also include *Show & Tell* and *Before & After*. Please either bring a flash drive, or email to Rich Bickham at richbickham@comcast.net by Sunday, January 7, with three photos that you would like to share.
- February 13, 2024 - Competition Night, and will also include *Show & Tell* and *Before & After*.
- March 12, 2024 - Special Presentation by photographer Willard Clay

Your participation and presence makes CLCC a vibrant organization!

CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

President	<u>Judy Jorgensen</u>
Secretary	<u>Kim Walkup</u>
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 the email address in the club directory. **Please make your submission by the 22nd of the month.**

CLCC SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Newsletter Editor	<u>Steven Szalaj</u>	Publicity	OPEN
Webmaster	Sandy Wittman	Competition Chairman	Rich Bickham
CACCA Delegate 1	Lance Lagoni	Competition Assistant	John Williams
CACCA Delegate 2	OPEN	Competition Assistant	Ernie Hagenow
Education	Peter Pelke II	Small Groups	Maureen Harris
Advisor	David Jilek	Outings	Karl Gabby
Advisor	Jim Pierce	Refreshments	OPEN
Facebook Administrator	Doug Frey	Librarian	OPEN
Membership	OPEN	Mentor Program	Paul Minkus

GALLERIES, STORIES, VIDEOS AND INSPIRATION ON THE WEB

(Click any bold-face heading to follow the link)

Amateur Photographer of the Year 2023 Winners Announced!

The publication, Amateur Photographer, has an annual competition. This year's Amateur Photographer of the Year competition was particularly tightly fought. After 10 rounds throughout the year, the final winners are posted here.

10 Portrait Photographers You Should Be Following In 2024

Kalum Carter is a writer for Digital Camera World. These are his recommendations for 10 portrait photographers worth following on social media in 2024.

10 Landscape Photographers You Should Be Following In 2024!

Again, from Kalum Carter in Digital Camera World – here's his list of landscape photographers to follow on Instagram in 2024. With stunning drone shots, gritty large format monos, and painterly vistas, you are sure to be inspired.

Generative Or Genuine? My 5 Surefire Ways To Spot An AI Generated Image

From James Paterson, another writer for Digital Camera World: Generative AI may not be photography - but it is creating increasingly photo-realistic images. Despite the advances, even the best AI generators are far from perfect. You can spot an AI image, if you know where to look. Here are five surefire signs that the photo you are looking at has been created by prompts typed into a program, rather than having been shot by a camera.

AI Is the Future of Photography. Does That Mean Photography Is Dead?

Gideon Jacobs is a critic and writer on photography for the New York Times. Here Mr. Jacobs reflects on what directions AI can lead the photographic art.

The Buildings We Love to Photograph at Night, Based on 10 Million Photos

There's something incredibly alluring about a handsome building photographed at night, something that makes it memorable and alive and which encourages people to visit. Buildworld, a building material supplier in the UK, analyzed the metadata on over 10 million photos on Flickr to identify the famous buildings with the highest percentage of pictures tagged "night." They ranked 6,000 of the world's most iconic buildings using the number of tagged photos per 1,000 photos of that building on the site. They then organized the findings globally and within North America, Europe, the UK and Asia, respectively.

2023 in Retrospect: 59 Photographs That Defined the Year in Arts

Deadheads, ballerinas and Mick Jagger: As 2023 concludes, editors from the New York Times revisit a memorable handful of the thousands of images commissioned by the photo editors that capture the year in culture.

Peter Magubane, 91, Who Fought Apartheid With His Camera, Is Dead

Peter Magubane, a Black South African photographer whose images documenting the cruelties and violence of apartheid drew global acclaim but punishment at home, including beatings, imprisonment and 586 consecutive days of solitary confinement, died on January 1, 2024. A powerful story of one person using photography to bring about awareness and change.

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

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."

Steve McCurry: Icons - Exhibition Extended!

Steve McCurry: ICONS is an extraordinary photography exhibition in Chicago showcasing the work of Steve McCurry, one of the main international figures in the world of photography over the last 40 years. Learn about his career, his photography, and much more. His photo of the young Afghan girl is iconic, as are many other of his images.

- **Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA)**, 820 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 60611
- **Open now through February 3, 2024**
- Tickets are \$21 - \$25 depending on the day
- Senior (65+), Student, or Military 10% discount - valid ID required
- Group Prices available (minimum 6 tickets)
- More information and tickets: <https://stevemccurryicons.com/chicago/>
- Video preview of the exhibition: <https://youtu.be/m8l49bNQsx4>

Immerse yourself in the world of this famous and audacious photographer in an unprecedented photography exhibition! With more than 80 large-format photographs, ICONS is one of the most complete retrospectives of the career of Steve McCurry. And if, on the one hand, his work encompasses conflicts, endangered cultures, ancient traditions, and contemporary culture, on the other hand, he always maintains the human element that made his famous photograph of the Afghan girl such a powerful image. This unprecedented journey through the inspiration, life, and work of the artist—who has already been recognized with some of the most prestigious awards in the industry—is not to be missed! Get your tickets now for Steve McCurry. ICONS in Chicago!



Highlights of the exhibition:

🌟 Celebrate the life and work of Steve McCurry in this international photography exhibition

🖼️ Discover over 80 iconic large-format photographs, such as the “Afghan Girl”, Sharbat Gula, who captivated the world on the cover of National Geographic magazine in 1985

🌍 Admire a selection of the most impressive images from his trips to Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and China, among others

🎧 Access audio descriptions from 42 selected photographs to hear the story behind the photo, in Steve McCurry's own words

🎬 Watch Steve McCurry testify about his life and experiences as a photographer

Morton Arboretum Sculpture Show



Mind Eye (2023) by Olga Ziemska
Locally reclaimed wood logs, metal armature
Morton Arboretum

Of the Earth

The exhibition will run through spring 2025.

Five large-scale sculptures by Polish American artist Olga Ziemska will be created exclusively for a new exhibition at The Morton Arboretum, **Of the Earth**.

The exhibition will explore the artist's expression and philosophy that, she says, "We are nature." Ziemska said that her aim is to remind people that "everything in life is derived from the same basic elements that form everything in nature, including ourselves. There is no separation." In Polish, Ziemska means "of the earth."

The artist's work will be created from reclaimed tree branches and other natural materials gathered from various locations throughout the Arboretum's 1,700 acres. "I am giving reclaimed natural materials a new life and transforming them from nature into new forms," Ziemska said.



Stillness in Motion (2023) by Olga Ziemska
Locally reclaimed branches, wire, metal armature
Morton Arboretum

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW YOUR IMAGES

4th FRIDAYS AT STARLINE

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

4th Friday Event: January 26, 2024

Submission Deadline: Monday, January 15, at 11:59 PM

Fee to Enter: \$25 for 3 Pieces

<https://starlinefactory.com/call-for-art-2/>

Awards available for the juried show include:

- Best of Show (Art or Photography): \$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

Click here for the **SUBMISSION APPLICATION**

Click here for the **PROSPECTUS**

Click here for directions on **HOW TO ENTER ART INTO THE STARLINE 4TH FRIDAY EVENT**



4th FRIDAYS ART EVENT AT THE DOLE

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

4th Friday Event: January 26, 2024

Submission Deadline for the January 26 Event: Sunday, January 14, by midnight

Non-refundable submission fee: \$35 for up to 5 pieces

Cash Awards:

- 4th Fridays Team Choice: \$50 cash each
- Nancy Merklings Choice: \$50 cash
- Kim Holz Memorial Award: \$50 cash
- 5 Honorable Mentions: \$50 cash each
- People's Choice Award: \$50 cash

Click here for the **PROSPECTUS**

6X6 PROJECT ART AUCTION AND FUNDRAISER

Raue Center's **6×6 PROJECT** fundraiser and online art auction & exhibition celebrates its fifth year of supporting arts with Art! All proceeds benefit Raue Center's fine arts education programs, **Mission Imagination** (MI) and **Raue Center School For The Arts** (RCSA), which has been enriching the lives of over 20,000 kids a year in the local community since 2001.

Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to participate by creating original works of art, in a variety of mediums, on 6×6" canvases. Since the inaugural event in 2019, 6×6 Project has raised over **\$80,000** for MI and RCSA with canvases coming from around the nation!

All artwork submitted to the **6×6 PROJECT** will be available for viewing and bidding online at **Auctria.com** starting **June 10, 2024**. Artists and the public are cordially invited to our **Reception** on **June 29, 2024** from 5:30-8 pm to mix, mingle and bid on your favorite pieces!

Create a mini-masterpiece and support the arts in your community!

Several of our CLCC members have participated in this event. It is a good way to get your images seen by a public that loves art, and you are supporting an arts venue right here in McHenry County. Entering is easy! Complete instructions are at the **6x6 PROJECT WEBSITE**.

Purchase one or two 6" X 6" canvases from the project partners (listed on the website and the links below) for \$5 per canvas. You must use these official canvases. Mount or print an image on the canvas and drop your artwork off by **May 24, 2024**. All artwork submitted to the 6×6 PROJECT will be available for viewing online and can be bid on in an online auction starting **June 10, 2024**. All auction proceeds go to education programs at the Raue. There will be an **Artists's Reception** on **June 29, 2024** at the Raue Center that is free and open to the public.

[Click here for Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

[Click here for Participation Guidelines](#)

[Click here for Participation Form](#)

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS:

Out of the Box – 71 N. Williams Street | Crystal Lake | (815) 444-7446

Makity Make – 203 E. Main Street | Algonquin | (224) 678-7090

Creative Arts, Inc. – 400 Highland Avenue | Crystal Lake | (815) 219-9243

Reprographics – 26 Crystal Lake Plaza | Crystal Lake | (815) 477-1018

Piano Trends – 35 Berkshire Drive | Crystal Lake | (815) 477-4266

Material Things – 103 E. Van Buren | Woodstock | (815) 575-9710

Raue Center For The Arts – 26 N. Williams St | Crystal Lake | (815) 356-9212 | Tu – Fr, 12 to 4 pm

SUPPORT THE ARTS WITH ART!

