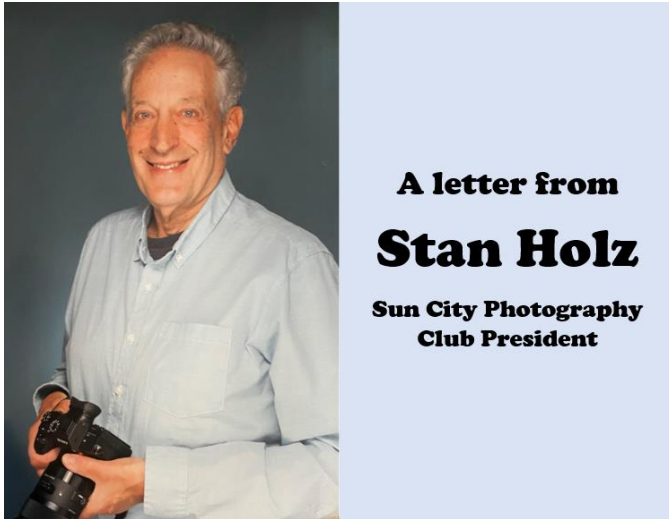


Photography Club of Sun City - September Newsletter

September 1, 2025



Well, it looks like this summer is rapidly coming to a close. For those who stuck around all summer, that may be very good news. I managed to escape to the White Mountains of New Hampshire, so all I had to deal with was wildfire smoke, both too cold and too hot temperatures, and a never ending drought. In any case, we're all ready now for our first meeting of the season. September 9th, 7 PM at the Hidden Cypress ballroom as usual. The competition slide show will start promptly at 6:30.

October 4th will be the date for the Club Fair. We have requested two tables and already have enough volunteers to man both tables. Unfortunately, Lifestyles has informed all the clubs that no studios can be open during the Club Fair, so we will not be able to have our sale or show prospective members our studio. All the affected clubs have written and expressed their disappointment with this ruling, but I doubt there will be any change.

Creative Vision is moving forward, with requests for participation and the pairing both scheduled for September. As always, John Burrack has volunteered to handle this very labor intensive job.

Hope to see you all at our September meeting.

Stan Holz



Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 7 pm.

In-Person

Meeting Location: Hidden Cypress.

The slideshow will begin at 6:30 P.M.

Competitions

Contest Theme: Slanted/Incline

Contest Entry Format: Digital

Deadline for Contest Submission: Digital entry by midnight Friday, September 5th

Special Reminder: Please pay attention to detail when you enter. Complete information can be found on the Club Website. Competition Rules, paragraph E. subparagraph 3.

Speaker

Speaker: Diana Casparian

Presentation Topic: Digital Arts

Our September speaker is one of our own club members. Diana will give us an intro to digital art. Creative Vision is coming up fast and pairings will be set at the end of September. In keeping with this, if you remember last year some of the artists created their images in digital form. This presentation will give us insight into how those are created. Diana graduated as a Computer Programmer in the early 1980's. She worked at IBM for 15 plus years as a Software Engineer on mainframes, working global level 2&3 software support. After starting her family in Raleigh, NC, she retired from IBM to go back to college for Graphic Design. Besides freelancing in Graphic Design, she started her own company, taking digital pictures at Gymnastics events and turning those into watercolor digital art prints sold in four states. After moving to Miami, she gained employment at a local quilt shop to create their website. She learned digital embroidery software using her computer software background. She developed an expertise in embroidery software, combining it with her knowledge of Graphic Design which resulted in the creation of her own line of original designs sold on ETSY since 2010. She is currently the webmaster for the Sun City Art Club and teaches Beginner Digital Arts in the Art Club.

Competition Judge: Jeff Coyle

Jeff was our speaker and judge in March 2025, where he discussed the capture and post processing tools and techniques that can make your landscape images really stand out as well as some recent camera and software technology changes that are impacting his landscape photography process. Jeff lived in a number of different states and one foreign country, before moving to Seabrook in 2017. He is married with three children, one of whom still lives with them. He is a mostly retired, self-employed, systems consultant, with degrees from UCLA and the University of Michigan. He uses photography to get out and see more of the world, so landscape and travel photography is what he enjoys most.

Remaining 2025 Meetings and Competition Themes

October 2025

Meeting Date: October 14th
Meeting Type: In-Person
Contest Theme: It Gives Me the Creeps
Contest Entry Format: Digital
Guest Speaker: Melanie Dunea

November 2025

Meeting Date: November 11th
Meeting Type: In-Person
Contest Theme: Open – No time limit
Contest Entry Format: **Print**
Guest Speaker: Sandy Dimke

December 2025

Meeting Date: December 9th
Meeting Type: In-Person
Contest Theme: People's Choice – first place winners in each level from the year will be voted by membership and awards given for Best of Category for each level and one Best in Show award.

Feature Article

Today's the Day: Explore Fall Courses

by Joe Turino

This fall, our club is rolling out another full season of classes—about 45 in all—offering fresh courses of interest alongside longtime favorites. With sessions that regularly fill up quickly, members know the value of signing up early. On September 1 (today), the fall catalog will be e-mailed to every member, giving everyone time to explore options before registration officially opens on September 8 at 2:00 p.m. The semester runs from September 15 through November 24.

“We want to give members new opportunities while building on what has worked well in the past,” said Cindy Fiano, Education Chair. “Artificial intelligence is now part of our daily lives, and we’re showing how it can become part of photography too.”

Two new AI classes by Jim Smith highlight the schedule. On October 2, “Using ChatGPT to Plan a Photo Trip” demonstrates how AI can be used to map routes and uncover scenic locations. The next day, “Using ChatGPT for Better Photographs” explores how AI can inspire fresh ideas tailored to themes, styles, and destinations. Both courses grew out of a summer “pop-up” session presented by Jim and Shashi, titled “Enhancing Photography with ChatGPT,” which drew strong interest according to Cindy.

Another AI addition is “Designing a Photography Class: From Concept to Slides,” taught by Shashi Cooduvalli on October 14. Aimed at current and potential instructors, this class shows how AI companions such as Copilot and ChatGPT can help structure lessons and create engaging slide decks. “Everyone has something they know and love that can be shared,” Cindy explained. “This class helps members turn that knowledge into a course.”

In addition to AI, Cindy mentioned other new classes including “Exploring iPhone Portrait Mode,” “From Street Photography to Social Landscape Photography,” and “Introduction to Camera Creative Modes.” She also mentioned that longtime favorites will continue including, “How to Use the Studio Printer,” “Making Your Own Photo Cards,” and “Composition Guidelines for Novices.”

The catalog also features a wide variety of topics, including “Mastering AI Editing in Adobe Photoshop,” “Night Photography with Your iPhone,” “Post Processing Wildlife Photography,” and “A Monet Moment.” Others in the lineup include “Don’t Say

Cheese: Expressions & Poses for Portraits” and “Discover the Beauty of Impressionist Photography.” Whether members use a DSLR, mirrorless camera, or smartphone, there are classes to match all interests and skill levels.

Cindy, who is finishing her second year as Education Chair, is quick to point out that the education program is a team effort. “Ward Litzenberg is truly my right hand with the technical side,” she said, “but our whole committee works hard to make sure these classes run smoothly.”

In addition to Ward, the Education Committee includes Shashi Cooduvalli, Barb Puceta, Sue VanDette, Ellen Scott, Toni McQuair, Melanie Frank, Dale Methven, Barb Reeves, Julia Parrish, Corky Burt, and Tom Mills.

The Camera Phone Committee, led by Ward and supported by Freddi Hoffman, Sue Flynn, Rick VanDette, and Sue VanDette, also continues to expand opportunities for smartphone photographers.

“Our mission is friends helping friends,” Cindy reminds us. “When members share what they know, everyone benefits.”



First Saturday Sales: This event takes place on Saturday, September 6th, from 10 am to 12 pm in the photography studio and is open to all residents of Sun City.

Open Studio: The studio is open each Tuesday from 1:30 pm to 4:00 for Printing, Mounting, Matting, Camera help or questions about the club in general.

Additional Help Sessions will be offered at the studio by Rich De Asla on Wednesday September 17th and Wednesday September 24th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Club Orientation: Orientation sessions are currently scheduled from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on September 29th, October 27th, November 24th and December 29th. These sessions are geared towards new (or newer) Photography Club members and will introduce you to the studio and the many facets of our club. Sessions are usually led by the club's President, with introductions provided by the club's officers and leadership team.

[Sign up here](#)

Education



Lake Somerset Walk Around - Phone Cameras

Finally, summer is coming to a close and I am looking forward to welcoming the cooler weather. Even though the summer has been a very hot one, the Education Committee has been hard at work bringing our membership many diverse Summer Pop-ups. There were ten in total and many of our member summer residents took advantage of them.

Thank you to Sophia Schade, Bob Seltzer, Tom Mills Shashi Cooduvalli, Jim Smith, Freddi Hoffman, Barb Puceta, Stan Holz and Dale Methven for being our presenters this summer. You all made a lot of people very happy.

As summer leaves us, we are approaching our Fall 2025 Semester which will run from September 15 through November 24. You should be receiving the Fall Semester catalog on September 1 with registration going live on September 8.

Once you receive the new catalog, take a few minutes to review the 43 classes and 3 orientations being offered. While some of the familiar classes continue to be offered for the benefit of our many new members, you will also find some new classes being offered for the first time this semester. A couple of those classes are AI related.

To help club members understand AI, the Education Committee is offering a couple of courses. On October 2, Jim Smith is offering a class entitled “Using ChatGPT to Plan a Photo Trip.” In this class you will learn how to harness the power of Chat GPT to plan and prepare your next photography adventure like a pro. On October 3, Jim is offering “Using Chat GPT for Better Photographs.” In this class you will learn how to use AI to generate unique photo ideas tailored to themes, locations and styles.

As you can see, the Education Committee is proud to continually expand course offerings that meet the growing needs of our diverse membership and keep up with the times. Consequently, the need for new instructors and assistants continues to grow as well. We need your support, and we are making a commitment to help you help us.

Please join us on September 10
10:00 in the Studio
For our first ever
“Potential New Instructor” Gathering

During this informal gathering, current instructors will share with you what it means to teach and address technical details behind their successful classes. An email with the registration link to join this session will be sent out shortly.

To further assist in your success in teaching a class of your choice, Shashi Cooduvalli is offering a course on October 14 from 10-12 entitled “Designing a Photography Class: From Concept to Slides.” This free class is only open to current PCSC instructors or members identified as “Potential Instructor.” If you have ever thought about teaching a class, now is the right time for you to pursue the opportunity.

Thank you all for your continued support.

See you in Class

Cindy Fiano

cindyfiano@gmail.com

Field Trips

Hope you all had a great summer and are looking forward to going on some field trips.

The Field Trip Committee has been working over the summer, researching, and planning Field Trips for the upcoming months.

POP-UP Field Trips (New)

The Field Trip Committee is introducing a new category called “POP-UP FIELD TRIPS” patterned after the Education Committees successful POP-UP Class program.

POP-UP Field Trip FAQ

- The Field Trip Announcement will be sent out 11-days before the date of the field trip
- Registration will close out 10-days after the date of announcement.
- Same Field Trip Registration Form except for the header photo.
- All the POP-UP registrations forms will have the same header image.
- All trips will be local and 4 hours or less
- POP-UP Field Trip will not appear on the pcschh website field trip schedule.
- POP-UP Field Trip Announcements will be made by email via listserv

Fall 2025 Field Trips

The Field Trip Committee has scheduled eight Field Trips from September to December. The Field Trips in September and October are open for registration. But the November and December trips are not currently open for registration.

⇒ Milky Way on Hunting Island - Tuesday September 23rd



We are heading to Hunting Island to photograph the Milky Way. Join us and capture one of the galaxies most awe-inspiring images.

Registration is currently open for this field trip.

To register for the Milky Way Field Trip, Click on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/vNrUaLm91HiPu33D9>

⇒ Historic Church of the Cross - Wednesday October 8th



We are staying local for this Field Trip as we are going to photograph around Old Town Bluffton Historic District Architecture, sunset over the May River and the Church of the Cross. The Church of the Cross is a Gothic Revival-style house of worship and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. General William T. Sherman spared the

structure during the Civil War. Here are a few other areas and historic structures to photograph during the field trip:

Registration is currently open for this field trip.

To register the Church of the Cross Field Trip, Click on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/ZQx9TuKLeSnKdCxT7>

⇒ **The Smoky Mountains - Sunday October 19th to Thursday October 23rd**



We are going back to one of our favorite fall destinations, the Smoky Mountains. We will be travelling along the Blue Ridge Parkway on our way to our destinations in and around North Carolina and Tennessee to photograph some of areas majestic and colorful vistas. We'll be spending time at the Oconaluftee Visitors Center photographing the Elk herd in the morning and evening. We'll be stopping at many of our favorite destinations including Mingus Mill, Oconaluftee Indian Village, Cherokee, Cades Cove, and the Motor Nature Trail in Gatlinburg to hopefully find a bear or two. You will have the opportunity to photograph stunning sunrises and sunsets from one of the many Overlooks. There may be a Milky Way Photoshoot or two from Waterrock Knob if conditions allow it.

So, if you would like to join us on this adventure to the Smoky Mountains, your journey starts here.

Registration is currently open for this field trip.

To register for The Smoky Mountains Field Trip, click on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/79qfLRuAo82u3pj79>

⇒ **Bonaventure Cemetery - Thursday November 6th**



Join us for a sunrise photoshoot of the Bonaventure Cemetery, a rural cemetery located on a scenic bluff of the Wilmington River, southeast of downtown Savannah, Georgia. The cemetery's prominence grew when it was featured in the 1994 novel *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt.

Registration will open for sign-up on October 1, 2025.

⇒ **SC Backroads - Monday November 10th**



They are going on a road trip, taking the back roads to some of the towns that time has forgotten. We'll be stopping at a couple of different towns along the way to photograph their unique architecture, character, and southern charm. Hopefully, we will get to tour the Valentine's Cotton Mill in Cope, and the SC Backroads Trip always stops at Miller's Bread Basket for lunch. So, join us on this field trip

Registration will open for sign-up on October 15, 2025.

⇒ **Holiday Festival of Lights on James Island - Tuesday November 18th**



Nothing gets you into the holiday spirit than snow and colorful decorations and lights (lots of them). Well, no guarantee about seeing real snow but maybe there will be some man-made white stuff on the ground. If you do, come join us as we kick off the 2025 holiday season with the James Island Festival of Lights. This is a remarkable event that features a 3-mile loop filled with stunning holiday decorations being lit up with almost two million sparkling lights. If one loop isn't enough, you can go around again and again on the same ticket. There is an entrance fee of \$10 per vehicle (up to 15 people).

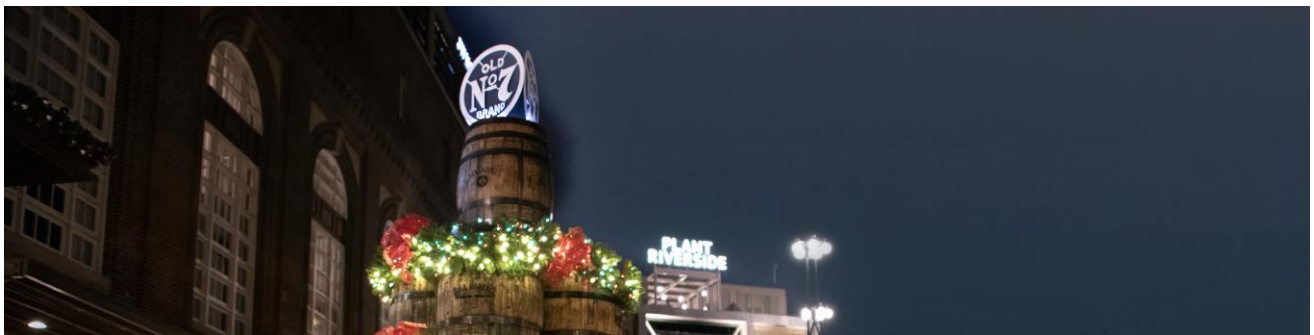
Tickets for the 2025 festival will go on sale in October

For more information and advanced online tickets purchase, click on the following link to go to the Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission Official Website:

<https://www.ccprc.com/3665/Holiday-Festival-of-Lights>

Registration will open for sign-up on October 15, 2025.

⇒ **Savannah's Plant Riverside at Christmas - Friday December 12th**



We are returning to Savannah's Plant Riverside as they are fully adorned in their holiday decorations. The Plant Riverside field trip is a great opportunity for *"Street*

Photography. ” The Plant Riverside area is filled with colorful water features, historic buildings, ship traffic, and views of the bridge and people. The Plant Riverside area has been decorated for the holidays, and the *Savannah Christmas Market* will be going on while we are there providing additional photo and shopping opportunities for the group.

This Field Trip is good for all types of Cameras.

Registration will open for sign-up on November 1, 2025.

⇒ **Darien Shrimp Boat Sunrise - Thursday December 18th**



The Sunrise over the Shrimp Boat Fleet in Darien is one of our favorite destinations for photographing sunrises, and this trip we will include the St. Simon's Island Lighthouse. It will be an early start, leaving at 5:15 AM to get to Darien to set up on the bridge for Blue Hour and the Sunrise over the fleet. After the sunrise photoshoot, we head off to Jekyll Island to photograph Driftwood Beach and possibly to photograph the Tall Ship LYNX as it set sail. We will stop for either breakfast or lunch during the trip.

Registration will open for sign-up on November 1, 2025.

2026 Field Trips

⇒ **Florida Wetlands - Monday February 2nd to Thursday February 5th**

Over the past few years, the Florida Wetlands Field Trip had been scheduled during the last week in January. Although these dates were great for many members of the Photography Club, the members involved with the set-up activities in the days leading up to annual Creative Visions event were unable to go on the field trip. As a result, the dates for the Florida Wetlands Field Trip have been moved out a week to February 2 – 5.

Registration will open for sign-up on November 15, 2025.

⇒ **Battle at Broxton Bridge - Saturday February 28th**

The Battle for Broxton Bridge stands as a pivotal engagement during the American Civil War on February 2, 1865. This re-enactment marks the crucial moment in the war, as Union forces clashed with Confederate troops that were trying to safeguard the Broxton Bridge over Salkehatchie River and impede the relentless march of the Union army. There is an entrance fee for the event.

Registration will open for sign-up on January 15, 2026

If you have any question regarding any of the Field Trips, please contact Mike Laferriere via email at: michaellaferriere62@gmail.com

Look forward to seeing you on one of the upcoming Field Trips.

Mike Laferriere
Field Trip Coordinator Field Trip Coordinator

Special Interest Groups

Canon R Mirrorless



The Canon R-Users Group (Canon R-UG) meets on the 4th Thursday each month at 3:30pm. The UG is open to members with Canon's "R" series mirror-less cameras and any member interested in learning more about them. Group members are encouraged to raise questions about camera set-up, menu items, RF series Canon lenses and shooting experiences. You are also welcome to bring some pictures to share. Each month we seek to have a member share experience with one or more unique capabilities they have explored like Focus Bracketing, HDR, Shooting Modes and etc. Use the link below to provide your contact information if you want to be included on the User Group's contact mailings: [PCSC Canon R-Usergroup Contact List](#)

Phone Camera



The Phone Photography User Group meets each month on **ZOOM** on the first Wednesday from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. The next meeting will be on September 3rd on Zoom. We discuss and share information on features of both Apple and Android phone cameras. Members frequently share information and demonstrate various applications and techniques for capturing or editing their images. Each month we share phone camera photos with each other. To join this group contact Sue Flynn at sueparkerflynn@gmail.com

Nikon



This is a forum for Nikon camera users to learn and share their knowledge about the capabilities of Nikon cameras of all types, lenses, and accessories. Field trips are also planned. We meet the 2nd Friday of every month at 10:30 AM in the studio. Contact Bob Seltzer robertseltzer6378@gmail.com for information.

Lumix



The group will have its first meeting of the fall on Wednesday, September 24th from 4:00 to 5:30 PM in the studio. If you've recently purchased a Lumix camera and are not on the UG email list, please email your information to freddih@sbcglobal.net.

Sony – Mirrorless



This group of Sony mirrorless camera users was formed to give photographers using Sony mirrorless camera equipment a place to share their knowledge. We will be resuming our monthly field trips this September. Contact Everett Denning, etdenning@gmail.com for information and to get on our mailing list.



Please join us in welcoming the Sun City Photography Club's newest members, bringing our membership count to 446 current renewed members:

Ron Persan
Patricia Dudley
Cliff Amos
Laurie Dieterich
Linda Shaffer

Joe Deschene
Victoria Jones
Deidra Jules
Jana Nix
Marilyn Africa

Randy Carroll
Alan Houpt
Debra Lowery
Amy Keane
Jerome Rathbun

Eileen Power-Furino
Peter Furino
Marvin Melsha
Elisa Morris
Sandra Hawkins



Club Website: <https://pcschh.org>

Be sure to visit our club website frequently for up-to-date information on trips, education, club meetings and competitions. View past competition winning photos as well as photos from past club trips. Newsletters and minutes from club meetings are archived there for your convenience.

Do you have ideas for things you'd like to see on the website? Email pcschhwebsite@gmail.com with any suggestions.

Photographer of the Month

Our September Photographer of the Month is Susan Ball. Go to pcschh.org and access this exciting feature from the Home page or Announcements page or from Galleries on the main menu. Meet Susan and view a showcase of some of her favorite photographs.

If you would like to nominate someone as Photographer of the Month, including yourself, please email pcschhwebsite@gmail.com

Monthly Slideshow

Make sure to participate in the monthly slideshow that features our members' best photo from the prior month. Email your favorite photo to monthly-slideshow@yogile.com and put your Name and Photo Title in the subject line of the email. Only 1 photo per member please. All others will be deleted.

Member Showcases

Don't forget to check out the new Member Showcases under Member Resources on the website. Email your portfolio locations to pcschhgallery@gmail.com to have your portfolio included.



“Friends Helping Friends”

You are receiving this newsletter because you subscribed to the Sun City Photography Club's mailing list.

Ward Litzenberg, Editor

Joseph Turino, Contributing Editor

Do you have a story or want to contribute to the newsletter? Email us at

pcschh.newsletter@gmail.com