

Photography Club of Sun City - May Newsletter

May 1, 2026



A letter from
Julia
Parrish
Sun City Photography
Club President

Welcome to May! As we step into this new month, we're greeted by longer days, warmer sunshine, and the welcome relief of pollen finally fading away. Though April may not have brought as many showers as expected, May still arrives with the promise of vibrant blooms, the cheerful songs of birds, and the gentle flutter of butterflies. It's a season that invites us outdoors—to soak in the

beauty, breathe a little easier, and enjoy the colorful signs of spring all around us.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Bruce and Patty Marshall, Doug and Ellen Scott, and Jana Nix for generously volunteering both their time and their beautiful photography to represent our club at the Environmental Club's Earth Day Celebration. Thanks to their efforts, the event was a great success, and the club was wonderfully represented.

We're already looking forward to our next event in June at Discover the Low Country. If you're interested in participating, whether by sharing your photography or volunteering your time, we would love to have you involved. Just let me know.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mike LaFerriere for his outstanding leadership as chair of our Trips Committee over the past years. Mike has done an exceptional job planning and executing both local outings and overnight interstate trips. Every trip I've attended has been thoughtfully organized and seamlessly carried out, with only the occasional weather-related challenges beyond anyone's control. Mike has made the decision to step down as chair of the Trips Committee. He has dedicated countless volunteer hours to making these experiences enjoyable for all, and I'm grateful that he will continue to serve on the committee.

I'd also like to welcome Doug Scott and Laurie Kellum, who have graciously stepped forward to take on Mike's role as the new Trips co-coordinators. We appreciate their willingness to serve and look forward to their leadership.

We had an engaging presentation from Jeff Coyle in April, and it sparked a lot of great ideas. His list of workshop resources was emailed to everyone and is now also available on the website under Galleries/Past Meeting Presentations for easy reference.

Congratulations to all the “It’s in the Eyes” winners—there were some truly creative and impressive entries. Special congratulations to Karen Jacobs and Rochelle McGrath for their well-earned promotions from Novice to Intermediate.

We’re looking forward to a very special membership meeting on May 5th. Please note that this is the 1st Tuesday of the month and not our normal meeting week. Our guest speaker will be award-winning local photographer Eric Horan. Many of our members have had the pleasure of traveling with Eric on his wildlife excursions with Lowcountry Photo Safaris, and it’s always a treat to have him join us as both a speaker and judge.

The theme for this meeting is “Inspired by a Song”—so be sure your entry’s title is a song title. Let your creativity shine as you connect music and imagery in a meaningful way. Remember that your digital entry is due by midnight tonight, May 1st.

As this will be our final meeting before the summer break, we have a few extra touches planned. There will be giveaways made possible through generous donations to the club, including a very special prize for a new photographer ready to upgrade from a phone to their first camera.

And of course, no last meeting before summer would be complete without a few cookies to enjoy together.

We will be on summer break until September, but that doesn’t mean the learning and creativity have to pause. Throughout the summer, we’ll continue to offer education pop-ups, studio time, user groups and other impromptu events to keep you engaged. So while regular meetings may be on hold, there will still be plenty of opportunities to practice, connect, and continue growing your photography skills all summer long.

Enjoy your summer and keeping with the song theme, we will “See you in September”.

Julia Parrish

Monthly Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 5th 2026, at 7 pm

Meeting Type: In Person

Meeting Location: Hidden Cypress Ballroom

The slideshow will begin at 6:30 pm

Contest Theme: Inspired by a Song (Entry title must be a song title)

Contest Entry Format: Digital

Deadline for Contest Submission: **TONIGHT** - by midnight Friday, May 1st

Please help us out. The title of your entry **MUST** be a song title. A word of advice: Don't guess, think you really know or enter only a part of it. Avoid any possible confusion. Look it up. Take a few seconds and do an internet search just to be sure.

Special Reminder: Please help us by taking extra care when submitting your competition entry. Be sure to name your photo file attachment this way:

Competition Level - Photo title - Photographer's name

Example: Novice - Blue Bird - John Doe

Then Email your photo file as an attachment to: pcschh1@gmail.com

For more information on how to enter, please refer to the Competition and Advancement Rules and Guidelines on the [Competitions](#) page on the club's website.

Speaker and Competition Judge: Eric Horan

Presentation Topic: "Think Landscapes"

The images to be shown are a collective portrait of the Lowcountry, mixing landscape and wildlife. When we talk about wildlife photography here in the Lowcountry, we primarily mean birds. I started photography in 1970 mostly photographing people and then people in the landscape which eventually became my mainstay for resort marketing photography work. Eventually, I moved from people to birds, but the landscape component has remained constant. Today with my bird photography, I seek to give them the context of their environment. This adds interest, but it also helps tell the bird's story, just as capturing their behaviors and habits does. So, I tell my students to always consider the landscape when photographing, even when working on birds.

Since graduating from Colorado Mountain College with a degree in Commercial Art and Photography, Eric’s career evolved from documenting wildlife for the Colorado Fish, Game, and Parks Department to freelancing for publications such as Outside, Sail, Travel + Leisure, and Orion. Then, in 1990, Eric spent the year studying specialized commercial arts in New York City assisting photographers like Jan Cobb and David Langley. Afterward, he returned to Hilton Head and established his studio in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

Eric’s work today integrates commercial and fine-art photography with a continued passion for editorial assignments, including projects for Smithsonian Magazine and National Geographic guidebooks. In addition to his published books, Carolina Nature and Beholding Nature, Eric started Lowcountry Photo Safaris, guiding photographers through the unique wildlife landscapes of the South Carolina Lowcountry.

For more information regarding my fine art collections or upcoming photo tour dates, please feel free to visit my website at www.horanphoto.com.

Look Ahead - Meetings and Competition Themes

June, July & August - No Meetings

For planning purposes, here are the contest themes and entry formats scheduled through November and the themes for 2027. This overview should help you prepare your images, explore new ideas, and pace your creative work throughout the year.

September 2026

Theme: Patterns/Repetition

Entry Format: Print

October 2026

Theme: Portrait of a Person

Entry Format: Digital

November 2026

Theme: Street Photography

Entry Format: Print

December 2026

Theme: People’s Choice

2027 Themes

January – Holidays

February – Still Life

March – Black & White

April – Macro/Close-Up

May – Through a Portal

September – Family & Friends

October – Complementary Colors

November – Things Military

December – People’s Choice

Feature Article

Mike Laferriere Leaves a Lasting Mark on Photography Club Field Trips

by Joe Turino

When Photography Club members sign up for a field trip, they usually see the exciting part first — the destination, the photo opportunities, and the adventure ahead.

For more than four years, Mike Laferriere has been the driving force behind the club's Field Trip Committee, serving as both chair and trip coordinator and helping shape one of our club's most active and valued programs. As Mike prepares to step down from his leadership roles at the end of May, he leaves behind not just a well-run system, but a meaningful legacy of service, learning, and friendship.

Mike and his wife, Sue, moved to Sun City in early 2013 after relocating from Chicago, and he joined our club in 2016. Photography had long been part of his life, dating back to his military days when he bought his first 35mm camera, but it was our club that reignited that passion.



A big part of that journey started close to home. Mike's neighbor, Rich Matheny, was leading the club's field trips at the time and invited him along on several outings, including trips to West Virginia and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Those early experiences not only sharpened Mike's interest in photography but gave him a first-hand look at what makes the field trip program special.

When Mike took over from Rich in January 2022, he built on that strong foundation and made it his own, bringing new ideas, careful planning, and his own thoughtful approach to a program that had already become a hallmark of our club.

Behind every trip was far more than picking a destination. Mike handled Google Forms, hotel reservations, meal planning, route logistics, timing sunrise and sunset shoots, and researching locations — all while balancing safety, weather, accessibility, and the varied skill levels of participants.

And the destinations were as diverse as the photographers themselves: local favorites like Old Sheldon Church Ruins and Chapel of Ease, overnight adventures to the

Smokies and West Virginia, Florida wetlands near Titusville, Milky Way shoots, dolphin cruises, lighthouse sunsets, and even rocket launches.

But perhaps Mike's biggest contribution wasn't the destinations. It was continuing to enhance an environment where members — especially newer photographers — feel comfortable learning, asking questions, and building confidence. Under Mike's leadership, field trips continue to be a place where friendships are strengthened, knowledge is shared, and members discover that photography is often best learned shoulder-to-shoulder in the field — carrying forward a tradition he was proud to support and help expand.

As Mike often says, “You don't take pictures, you take memories.”

That philosophy shaped every trip.

Mike credits the Field Trip Committee for their support and helping generate ideas and praised Laurie Kellum for helping on the technology and coordination side. Looking ahead, Doug Scott will step into the chair of the field trip committee and Laurie is the incoming field trip coordinator, both current committee members. Other current committee members include Joyce Fowler, Robert Lawner, Alan McKee, Sam Moschella, and Ralph Rooke.

Mike plans to remain on the committee and continue helping lead trips — a reassuring sign for members who have come to appreciate his steady hand and thoughtful planning.

For club members who have never taken a field trip, Mike's advice is simple: come along.

Because beyond the photographs are the real rewards — the friendships, the shared discoveries, the helpful tips from fellow members, and those unexpected moments when the light is perfect and everything comes together.

And while Mike is stepping away from the leadership role after four-and-a-half years of dedicated service, his impact on the club's field trip program will continue to be felt for years to come. Through his commitment, careful planning, and passion for creating meaningful experiences, he helped guide and strengthen a journey that has become a valued cornerstone of our club. Because of Mike's substantial contributions, members will continue discovering new destinations, sharpening their skills, building friendships, and creating lasting memories — one field trip at a time.



First Saturday Sales: This event takes place on Saturday, May 2nd, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the photography studio and is open to all residents of Sun City.

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

Orientation: Our final Orientation session before the summer break is scheduled from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Tuesday, May 26th. These sessions are designed for new or newer Photography Club members to introduce them to the Studio, our equipment, and the many facets of the club. Each session is led by members of the club's leadership team, with brief introductions from the club's officers to help you get acquainted with the people who keep the club running. [Sign up here](#)

Education



Scenes from Marshall Ponzi's 'Mastering Exposure' class – Shashi Cooduvalli

Our spring semester is in full swing, and we've had great participation across classes so far. Thank you to all our instructors and volunteers who continue to make our program strong, organized, and welcoming.

The Education Committee continues to review member feedback from recent sessions. We're using your suggestions to refine class pacing, improve communication, and plan future offerings that meet the needs of both beginners and more advanced photographers.

We still have seats available in several excellent classes coming up over the next couple of weeks. This is a great time to jump in, try something new, and continue growing your skills alongside fellow members. Whether you're looking to strengthen your technical foundations, explore creative techniques, or simply enjoy time with our

photography community, we'd love to see you in one of these upcoming sessions.

[You can register here.](#)

- Fundamentals of Smartphone Photography (1 seat avail) Three Sessions: 5/5 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM and 5/12 from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM and 5/19 from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
- Travel Photography Using Your Smartphone (3 seats avail) One Session: 5/8 from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM
- Composition Guidelines for Novices (7 seats avail) One Session: 5/9 from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM
- Apple Photos (10 seats avail) One Session: 5/11 from 1:00 PM-3:30 PM
- How to Make Better Landscape Photos (6 seats avail) Two Sessions: 5/13 and 5/20 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
- Simple Editing Steps for Your iPhone Images (6 seats avail) Two Sessions: 5/18 and 5/27 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
- How to Use the Studio Printers (4 seats avail) One Session: 5/22 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
- Precut Mats (5 seats avail) One Session: 5/22 from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

You can always view the current list of classes with available seats using [this link.](#)

The Education Committee hopes these classes continue your journey of stretching your imagination and developing a personal vision with more creative and expressive images. Questions? Email pcscheducation@gmail.com.

Ward Litzenberg

pcscheducation@gmail.com

Club Trips

We had 11 travelers on the Bonaventure Cemetery Spring 2026 trip on April 7th. Unfortunately, we missed the azaleas in full bloom by a week, but we still had a great time

To see the photos from this and other Photography Club Trips visit <https://pcschh.org/trip-galleries/>

Upcoming Club Trips

Registration has been closed for the Hidden Cypress Golf Cart Photography Nature Tour 2026 - we reached the limit of 40 for the trip.

But we have two Club Trips remaining through the end of May that are still open for registration. These are the last Field Trips currently planned before the summer break

⇒ **Beidler Audubon Forest - May 7th 2026, from 7:15 AM to 3:00 PM**



“HOO’s” waiting for you to photograph the Beidler Audubon Forest in Harleyville SC. We have 23 members and their guests heading to the Francis Beidler Audubon Forest and Sanctuary to photograph Prothonotary Warblers, Painted Buntings Barred Owls, Summer Tanagers, along with other songbirds, reptiles. The Beidler Forest is unique because you are on a 1.75-mile boardwalk high and dry above the swamp to photograph. This trip will be a little different than the others where we see thousands of birds. The trip to Beidler you will be looking for small songbirds, Owls and of course the main attraction, the Prothonotary Warblers. If you have never experienced Beidler Forest, you need to go on this Club Trip before the Prothonotary Warblers leave their nests and head for the treetops. This is a beautiful location and is worth the visit. A group lunch is planned.

[Beidler Audubon Forest Website](#) - There is a \$12.00 per person entry fee and it is recommended to pre-register for the date. When ordering your tickets online, you get \$1 of the price of the ticket.

Registration is OPEN – [Click to register for the Beidler Audubon Forest Club Trip](#)



The group at lunch at Vic's on the River in Savannah after the Bonaventure Cemetery trip

⇒ **Swan Lake and Iris Gardens - May 14th 2026, 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM**



We have 19 members and their guests going to one of our favorite spring destinations located in Sumter, South Carolina, Swan Lake & Iris Gardens. Swan Lake is the only public park in the United States to feature all eight swan species. There is a paved walkway around the entire lake that provides the photographer with a variety of views of the Swans, many species of ducks and other water waterfowl in Swan Lake. Many of the swans are close to the shore and easy to photograph. The Iris Gardens has some of the most intensive plantings of Japanese Iris's in the United States. Swan Lake is in Sumter, SC. It is a 2-hour 15-minute, 156-mile drive from Sun City. Plan on 3-hours at Swan Lake & Iris Gardens. A group lunch is planned.

Registration is OPEN – [Click to register for the Swan Lake and Iris Gardens Club Trip Club Trip](#)

Field Trip Committee Leadership Change

After four and a half years as Chair of the Field Trip Committee and Trip Coordinator, I am passing the leadership baton over to Doug Scott. Doug is a long-time member of the Field Trip Committee and a seasoned Field Trip Leader. As part of this leadership change, Laurie Kellum will be taking on the role of Field Trip Coordinator. Laurie's background and computer skills will be important assets as the Field Trip Coordinator. I will be staying on the Field Trip Committee working with Doug and Laurie, so they have good working knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities to ensure a smooth transition. The transition should be completed by the end of May.

So, please congratulate Doug and Laurie on their new roles on the Field Trip Committee.

In looking back over the past 4 1/2 years, there have been 67 field trips scheduled and we completed 54 trips. Mother Nature as always was responsible for 12 of the cancelled trips. We had 1056 members and invited guests registering for the 67 field trips with 832 travelers on the 54 trips. There has been a steady increase in the number

of members registering for their first field trip. In 2024 and 2025 we had 35 members registering for their first field trip. But in the first half of 2026, we welcomed 38 members to their first Field Trip. Getting new members involved in one of the many Photography Club activities is vital for the future of the Photography Club.

These Field Trip numbers are how we keep score from year to year and is just one way to measure field trips. The real value is in the memories made on each and every trip — and yes, some of those memories even end up in our cameras. When we travel together, we learn a lot about each other while riding in the car. We meet new and seasoned members, make new friends, get photography help and learn something new on every trip.

Everyone has a favorite memory or two from going on field trips. Think about your favorite field trip memories, it should bring a smile to your face. Because that's what memories do for you.

It has been an honor serving the members of the Sun City Photography Club. I want to thank all the past and present Field Trip Committee Members for their support and hard work developing trip ideas and conduct research for the field trips for enjoyment of our members.

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

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

Mike Laferriere
Club Trip Coordinator

User Groups

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.

Canon R-Users Group: Monthly meetings are on the 3rd Monday of each month at 1pm in the Studio. The Group is open to members with Canon's "R" series mirror-less cameras and any other PCSC Member interested in learning more about these systems. Group members are encouraged to raise questions about camera set-up, menu items, RF series Canon lenses and shooting experiences at each meeting. At the May meeting we will explore creating Multiple Exposures which can be enabled under the Shooting Menus at Tab #6. Members will share their experiences and resulting photos. You are always encouraged to bring some pictures to share. Use the link below to provide your contact information if you want to be included on the User Group's mailings: [PCSC Canon R-Usergroup Contact List](#)

Phone Photography: The Phone Photography User Group meets on the first Wednesday each month on **ZOOM** from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. 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

Sony – Mirrorless: This user group was formed to give photographers using Sony mirrorless camera equipment a place to share and increase their knowledge. The group meets every 4th Thursday from 10 AM to Noon in the studio. In addition to the studio meetings, there are planned local field trips. Contact Everett Denning, etdenning@gmail.com for information and to get on our mailing list.



APRIL MEETING NEWS

April Competition Winners

Theme: “It’s in the Eyes” (Print)

Judge: Jeff Coyle

NOVICE



1st Place - “Unspoken Devotion”, Karen Jacobs

2nd Place - “Behind the Mask”, Rochelle McGrath

3rd Place - “Birthday Beauty”, Kathy Kight

HM - “Sunrise in His Eyes”, Patty Marshall

INTERMEDIATE



1st Place - “Eye of the Seamstress”, Diana Sull

2nd Place - “Peeps”, Philip DiDomenico

3rd Place - “Wretched”, Fred Andrews

HM - “Mom Look”, Karl Persson

ADVANCED



1st Place - “I Know”, Keri Ricci

2nd Place - “Rhapsody”, Amaury Cruz

3rd Place - “Little Miss”, Diane Gray

HM - “The Eye of the Pelican”, Barb Puceta

EXPERT



1st Place - “I’ll Keep an Eye Out for Ya”, Stan Lituchy

2nd Place - “Under Examination”, Rick VanDette

3rd Place - “Emerald Gaze”, Pat Webster

HM - “Taking the Red Eye Out to Nowhere”, Tom Lehrer

Competition Category Advancements

As a result of the January competition, **Karen Jacobs and Rochelle McGrath** have advanced from the Novice category to Intermediate.



Please join us in welcoming the Sun City Photography Club's newest members, bringing our membership count to 468 current renewed members:

Jeff Cross Margaret Conlon Matthew Polk Christine Warnquist
Deborah Mistick David Mistick

New member badges will be available for pick-up at our monthly membership meetings.



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 May Photographer of the Month is Stan Holz. Go to pcschh.org and access this exciting feature from the Home page or Announcements page or from Galleries on the main menu. Meet Stan and view a showcase of some of his 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 slide show 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

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