



Shutterbug Times

Official Newsletter of the Olympia Camera Club

Olympia, WA

Established in 1935

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www.olympiacameraclub.org

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Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/OlympiaCameraClub

Dancing Swans



PegH

In this issue:

President's Corner p. 2
Dates to Remember p. 2
Monthly Meeting Topics p. 3
NPPNW Fall Meeting p. 4
NWCCC Meeting p. 4
August Field Trip p. 4
Ridgefield Photo Contest p. 5
PSA Fall Photo Festival p. 5
PSA Student Membership p. 5
VP Musings p. 6
Field Trip Ranch Report p. 6
Field Trip Bee Garden Report p. 7
Sept Field Trip p. 7
Planning Picnic and Survey p. 7
Fair Thank You p. 8
Repainting the Sokolik Building p. 8
Fair Photography Results p. 8
The Place Where It Happens p. 9-10
Some Thoughts on the Fair p. 10-11
What I Wish I Knew p. 11
Ride Your Enthusiasm! P. 11-12
Membership Report p. 12
OCC Traveling Results p. 12
NWCCC Traveling Images p. 13
Fair Results p. 14-17
Board Mtg Minutes p. 18-19
Bee Inspired Field Gallery p. 19-21
Ranch Field Trip Gallery p. 22
Member Galleries p. 23-28
PSA p. 29
How to Submit to Newsletter p. 29
Editor's Note p. 29
Executive Committee p. 30
Committee Contacts p. 30

President's Corner

The Thurston County Fair, our biggest club project of the year, is now history and it was very successful this year. The painting of the Sokolik Building wowed those who have been there in the past, and all the volunteers from the club who manned the information desk did a great job of getting visitors to vote for the People's Choice awards and talking about the benefits of the club. Some great suggestions for improvements also came from the volunteers and that is what keeps things moving and improving. I'm very proud of the job we did and already looking forward to next year.

Due to the change to Zoom for so many of our meetings with the Covid pandemic, our treasury is in very good shape, and it has been suggested (if we can reach agreement with the county) that we use part of our surplus cash for lighting improvements in the Sokolik building. Anyone who has an opinion one way or the other, please let me or another board member know or attend our September board meeting which will be the September 2 at 6:30 on our normal Zoom link.

Due to a collection of unfortunate circumstances, we've had to extend the deadline for filling out the Member Survey this year until August 16. Please, Please, Please! take time to fill this out and let us know what you would like the club to do to help you and what you are

willing to do to help the club, your fellow photographers and the community. Then come join us at the annual picnic, now moved to August 28 and relocated to the pavilion at the Rose Garden in Squaxin Park to discuss where we want to go and hopefully volunteer to participate on one of the committees that choose and develop presentations, field trips and other club activities. And if no one has reserved the garden itself, you can get some really nice flower images.

Lastly, I've been approached by the President of the Tacoma Photographic Society, one of our sister clubs, about how we manage to keep such a high level of participation. They are staring in the face of the same fate that befell our Olympic Peaks members, with not enough people willing to help manage the club. If anyone has ideas on this, we'd love to have you participate in how to do this for the benefit of every photographic club (and lots of other volunteer organizations facing the same issue). Drop me a line if you'd like to participate. We'd love any ideas anyone has on this subject.

I'd like to thank all of you for making this club the exception to what's happening to so many volunteer organizations. It makes me extremely proud to be a member.

**Dates to Remember**

Club meetings will be virtual on Zoom except for Practical will be hybrid

August

26 August General Meeting
27 August Field Trip to Nancy's
28 August Planning Picnic

September

2 September Board Meeting
4 September Articles and Images due for Newsletter
9 September Practical Photography
16 September Member Sharing
23 September General Meeting
26 September Field Trip to Animal Rescue

Monthly Meetings
Our Practical Photography meeting is now a hybrid meeting
General and Member Sharing meetings are virtual
taking place using Zoom

The Zoom link is available on the OCC Website in the
Members Only Area - Zoom Link

Practical Photography
August 12, 2025
7-9 pm

There will be no Practical Photography meeting this month. We are going to take a short break and will resume in September.

Rick Flegel, Coordinator

Member Sharing Night
August 19, 2025
7-9 pm

There will be no Member Sharing meeting this month. We are going to take a short break and will resume in September.

Don Dimitratos, Coordinator

General Meeting
August 26, 2025
7-9 pm

The Dempster Highway is a highway in Canada that connects the Klondike Highway in the Yukon (Dawson City) to Inuvik. In 2017, the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway opened, making it possible to drive all of the way to the Arctic Ocean.

Dawn Barrowcliff will be discussing and showing her images taken while making this journey in August of 2024. The ever-changing scenery is breathtaking and magical and well worth the effort of taking on this challenging “highway” (560 miles of remote unpaved road). Dawn’s husband, Mark, will join the presentation to discuss trip planning, logistics and vehicle or RV preparation for this unforgettable adventure.



Chuck Hall, Coordinator

Nature Photographers of the Pacific Northwest Fall Meeting

submitted by Gerald Pumphrey

The fall meeting of the Nature Photographers of the Pacific Northwest will be held at Clark College Gaiser Hall Auditorium in Vancouver, WA on November 7-8, 2025. (This meeting will be a week later than usual, a step taken to avoid Halloween weekend.)

The speaker for both the morning and afternoon sessions on Saturday, November 8 will be the outstanding Bandon photographer, [Susan Dimock](#). All details concerning the program, field trips, registration, and lodging may be found at nppnw.org.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS
NPPNW
OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

NWCCC Report to Olympia Camera Club

by Rene L. Conger

We have been having special meetings for the NWCCC Fall Conference. There's one more this month than the regular meeting in September. The Digital Competition is now open. Thiabault Roland will be the speaker. We are actively researching the venue.

NWCCC Statement regarding AI: Images that have been created, in whole or in part, using so-called artificial intelligence or "AI" software are not allowed in the Open Digital Salon, the Open Print Salon, the Digital Slideshow Competition, or the Traveling Image Salon. All images must originate as photographs made by the entrant. If the image is a composite, all of the elements of the image must originate as photographs made by the entrant. The use of third-party textures, skies, or stock photos is not allowed.

AI tools, such as Photoshop's Generative Fill, may be used to remove elements from an image but may not be used to add elements beyond what pixels are necessary to fill the removed area. The filled area should be consistent with the existing image. An example might be the removal of a person from the front of a rock. The software may be used to fill in rock details where the person was previously. The software may not be used to replace the person with an animal or some other element that wasn't there in the first place.

The 2025 Competitions rules and entry forms have been posted. Entries due Oct 1, 2025. They include:

Open Print Salon

Open Digital Salon

Digital Slideshow Competition.

The link is <https://nwcameraclubs.org/competitions/>

NORTHWEST
COUNCIL OF CAMERA CLUBS

Field Trip to Nancy Nelson's Property

August 27, 2025

10 am to Noon

submitted by Terri Hoselton

Nancy Nelson has graciously invited club members to her property once again this year. If you didn't make it last year, members had a great time exploring the wooded park-like property, with some members taking pictures down by the stream. Nancy set up a lovely station for people to work on macro and had some flowers there to practice with. It turned out to be a very talkative gathering where lots of equipment and photography info were shared between members.

From Nancy "Our gardens aren't nearly as large as Tami's or Deanna's, but we do have a smorgasbord of things for you to shoot plants: perennials and natives; insects; birds - at the feeders and out and about; path through a second-growth forest (similar to many in the area but here you won't be bothered by pesky fellow park visitors - just fellow OCC members), a stream with funky railway bridge that's great for long exposure shots. Probably a good idea to bring a tripod. And if none of this rings your chimes, please feel free to come and sit on the deck and drink coffee/tea and visit with fellow members."

Nancy has invited members to bring a sack lunch and stay after to socialize on their lovely deck.

Please let us know if you are planning to join us by clicking [here](#).

Directions:

5326 110th Ave SW Olympia 98512.

Depending on how many people come and when you arrive, you may need to park out on 110th. Don't let our bridge scare you - it's very strong. Nancy's cell number is 360-545- 3227 if you need more info.



Ridgefield Wildlife Photo Contest

submitted by Susan Bradley

Deadline: September 2, 2025

Share your favorite Ridgefield Refuge photos in various categories (including youth!) for a chance to win prizes from Pro Photo Supply and Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Presented by Pro Photo Supply and the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

CATEGORIES:

BIRDS – Birds and waterfowl in their natural habitat.

NOTE: No images of Great Horned Owls will be accepted during this year's contest.

WILDLIFE – Any wildlife other than birds – mammals, amphibians, fish, insects, reptiles, and invertebrates in their natural habitat.

PLANT LIFE – Trees, grasses, flowers, fungi, mushrooms, and other flora in their natural habitat.

LANDSCAPE & STRUCTURES – The refuge contains a mosaic of scenic views, including iconic structures such as the Cathlapotle Plankhouse.

YOUTH (AGES 10-17) – Subject can be any of the adult categories (birds, wildlife, plant life, and landscape & structure). Open only to entrants between the ages of 10-17 years old.

Category Prizes:

1st Place [in each category]:
\$150 Pro Photo Supply Gift Card*

Inclusion in Gallery Showing at Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge Birdfest
12 x18 high-quality digital print



Honorable Mention:

Inclusion in Gallery Showing at Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge Birdfest

12 x18 high quality digital print

*Gift Cards from Pro Photo Supply

To learn about submission requirements, eligibility, terms and conditions click this [link](#).

[Submit to the Pro Photo Supply Contest Page »](#)

All winning entries will be announced on Pro Photo Supply's Instagram page and other social platforms and prizes will be awarded sometime toward the beginning of October 2025.

The contest is open to all photographers, both professional and non-professional and must be resident of the US.

PSA Fall Photo Festival Portland, OR September 24 – 27, 2025

Registration for the PSA Photo Festival in Portland OR opened on April 1, 2025. Onsite registration opens on September 22, 2025.

Click here for online registration: [Link](#)

The following are the fee levels:

Level 1: \$200 – Early bird full festival member fee

Level 2: \$225 – Full festival member registration (if you don't register in April)

Level 3: \$325 – Non-member full registration

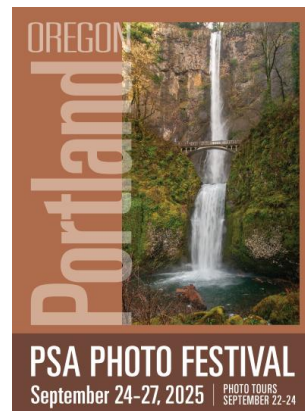
Level 4: \$99 – one day pass – Wednesday

Level 5: \$99 – one day pass – Thursday

Level 6: \$99 – one day pass – Friday

Level 7: \$99 – one day pass – Saturday

Level 8: \$255 – Onsite registration for members (22 September 2025)



You can read more about the Photo Festival in the March 2025 newsletter.

Photographic Society of America Launches Free Two-Year Student Membership

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) has launched a free two-year student membership program to support and inspire young photographers.

The digital student membership is available to photographers who are currently enrolled in school – middle school, high school or college – and can provide a valid student ID. PSA is proud to offer this membership as part of their commitment to fostering the next generation of photographers. Go to the following link for more information:

<https://psaphotoworldwide.org/mpage/public-youth>

VP Musings

Good August Everybody,
This is probably my favorite month of the year. Warm sunshine, travel opportunities and great shooting environments.



I am now in my second month as VP and have not only had some great experiences, but I think I am getting more insights and thoughts on how I perceive where the club can go. Specifically, I see three goals for the club:

Club awareness. – The fair was a wonderful experience for me. I worked at two different activities and enjoyed each one. While working at the booth at the fair I sensed a lack of really welcoming people and making them aware of the club. Yes, we have the banner, but it was in the back and up high. People's eyes are not trained to view something in that space. I would like us to think about how we can be more out front and active in welcoming people, letting them know about the club, and inviting them to a meeting I would also like us to explore and be more proactive in other venues and events to attract people. More on that later.

Get people into the club. – Once we get awareness of the club out there, we need to make it inviting and easy for people to join. I would also like to see a more concerted effort in attracting youth. I've heard we have contacts with some camera stores and dealers. How can we work with them to help spread the word?

Engagement. – Once in the club we need to work to get folks engaged. I know we have a lot of activities but the attendance at those can sometimes be very low. If we don't get people engaged, they won't be sticking around. The surveys should help – If you haven't filled out your survey yet PLEASE DO SO. We really need your input and then your encouragement to act on your suggestions.

I don't have the answers. I have some thoughts on addressing the above and will be sharing those as I work them out. I expect some resistance, but I am only looking at those things that can be positive for the club. This might mean some of us stepping out of our comfort zones at times, as I did when I volunteered for this position. Now that I am here I want to make as much of a positive impact as I can.

We had five new members this month and that is great! Welcome to our new members and please let us know what you would like your club experience to be. At the fair, several people came up and wanted to know how to

participate and enter their photos. That is a great opportunity for us to generate interest in our club. Maybe a small committee or group that can reach out those people and help them to prepare their exhibits. There were several folks that showed up at the fair totally unprepared to exhibit the photos they brought in. A Great Big Thanks to those members who helped those folks prepare their pictures at the last moment. Maybe develop a brochure on how, in detail, to prepare your photos?

If anyone has questions, thoughts, comments etc., they would like to share please feel free to use my contact information on the OCC officers web page.

Oh, and don't forget, Dawn Barrowcliff will be our presenter at the General Meeting this month. I'm sure it will be a wonderful experience. Not only is she a great photographer but also a very nice person. I'm really excited and looking forward to her presentation.

Field trip to Quartercircle 2C Ranch

by Sierra Smith

In the middle of July we took a small group out to east Lewis County to visit with Domo and her family and photograph her management intensive grazing systems.

Domo showed us her many sheep and goats which are working at managing this generational farm in Randle, WA. Domo's children showed us the best trees for climbing. Later we got a tour of the farm stand and some history on how the farm was founded and maintained by five generations of families. It was a hot and sunny day, but there was a great view into the evolution of grazing and farm families in our region.

Thanks so much to all who attended. For more images turn to page 22.



Bee Inspired Garden Field Trip Report

submitted by Terri Hoselton

Six + members braved the hot weather to visit the [Bee Inspired Garden](#) on June 29 led by Madeline McIntire.

The Bee Inspired Garden is a non-profit demonstration pollinator habitat and interactive educational center situated on a family farm with a lovely view of Mt. St. Helens. The owner and host, Kay Crawford shared some fascinating information about bees and described the three types of beehives she is using. She also showed members her art studio and provided iced tea to help beat the heat, which was enjoyed by all.

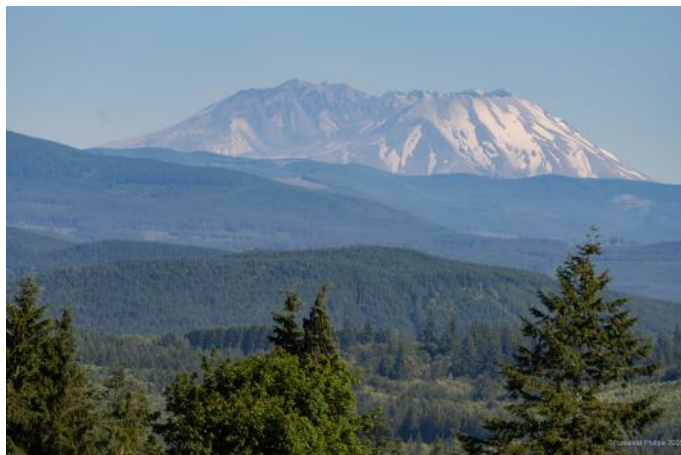


There were fields of flowers, a beautiful garden, a screened gazebo surrounded by bees, and lovely views of Mt St. Helens. This made it the perfect spot for both macro and landscape photography.

If you went on the trip, please share a few of your photos with Kay through her website. Additionally, as always please share a few images for the newsletter and to the field trip gallery on the OCC website.

If you missed the trip and are interested in going, please check out her website (link above) and see if you can make arrangements. They also rent out a small number of RV/campsites for those interested in staying the evening. It is a lovely relaxing location to spend time and Kay is a wonderful host.

Turn to pages 19-21 for more images.



Save the Date

Field Trip to Center Valley Animal Rescue September 26, 2025

10 am – 2 pm

Field Trip Leader: Susan Bradley

<https://centervalleyanimalrescue.org/>

We are taking a trip to the Center Valley Animal Rescue (CVAR) which has 32 acres of pastures, ponds, barns and shelters for large, rescued animals. There is a central building to house the smaller rescued animals.

CVAR also have wildlife that have been injured and are there for rehab and release. We will not have access to wildlife for photos while we are there. Only a very limited number of staff assist in the wildlife area to keep them wild.

Signup is required for this field trip as there is a limit of 20 people. Please [click](#) here to sign up for this field trip. Parking is tight so we will meet at the Hood Canal Ranger Office (295142 US-101, Quilcene, WA 98376) at 9:45 am and then carpool from there.



Planning Picnic Revision and Member Survey Extension

We encountered some issues with distribution of the Member survey, resulting in very low response numbers, so we have reopened the response time with a new deadline of **August 16**. Click [here](#) to access the survey.

Since the survey has been extended and because of potential smoke issues for some of our people from wildfires, we have also postponed and moved the Planning Picnic to the Pavilion next to the Rose Garden at Squaxin Park in Olympia from 5-7:30 pm on August 28. The new sign-up sheet is [here](#).



A Huge Thank You to Fair Volunteers

Thank you to the 31 or so club members and three non-members who volunteered during the pre-fair activities and/or during the fair. Some volunteers devoted many hours of their time on multiple days! We received many positive comments about the bright new paint job in the Sokolik building. Thank you to those who volunteered to paint as well.



We also want to give a special thank you to Rosalind Philips who spent several hours re-programming our fair database to work with the fair's new online entry system. Without her help, we wouldn't have been able to print labels, title strips, or necessary reports for judging day.

Once again, the photography exhibition was a success with the help of the dedicated people who came out to help. We couldn't have pulled it off without you.

Thank you ALL!

Dennis Plank and Christy Sterling
Co-Superintendents, Thurston County Fair Open
Photography Exhibit

Repainting the Sokolik Building

by Dennis Plank

On the July 8 and 12 a hearty crew of a dozen camera club members, one woman and her husband from the Olympia Arts League and Christy's dad repainted all the walls and display panels in the Sokolik building at the Thurston County Fairgrounds where we put on the annual photography exhibition for the fair. That building is 48 feet wide by over 200 feet long, so it was not a minor undertaking. Luckily, there was no furniture to move!

It is now a nice bright white on the inside and everyone who came to drop off prints or for the judging commented on how nice and bright it is on the inside. Well done to the intrepid painters!



Thurston County Fair Photography Results

by Dennis Plank and Christy Sterling

The camera club's largest and most complex community event of the year is now history. As is always the case, there were a few glitches, but it went off very well.

Thank you to the 29 club members who entered images!

The results are posted on pages 14-17.



We had a total of 387 images, down from 458 last year and 396 in 2023. According to our archived newsletter, we received 594 images in 2018. We will be brainstorming ideas for increasing participation next year. If you have any ideas, please let us know. We were concerned that the new online system, Fair Entry, would deter some entrants, however our total number of entrants only went down one (from 72 to 71). The participants just entered fewer images. Last year, club members made up 53% of all entrants. This decreased to 41% this year. We heard from some club members that they didn't enter because they ran out of time or just didn't get around to it. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help next year – do you need help choosing images, printing, mounting?

The most popular lots were Scene with Manmade Objects, Wild Birds, People, and Nature Scenics. The least popular were the Fair Mascot, Still Life and Table Top, Portraits, and Abstract. We will be discussing our lots and definitions to see if we want to refine any of them further. For example, "Scene with a Manmade Object" has images ranging from rolling hills with a distant village to close ups of buildings, boats, and vehicles. We may want to split this into two lots. Another lot that had some challenges is "Creative Imagery" where some entries submitted were not photographs. If you would like to be involved in a discussion about lots and definitions, please let us know.

The Place Where It Happens

How the fair building we show in came to be

by Cynthia Whelan

While we were busy cleaning, painting, and preparing for this year's Thurston County Fair Photography Exhibit, Susan

Bradley, our OCC Newsletter editor, suggested that I interview Kathy Sokolik, who was busy working with other OCC members.



Susan suggested: "It would be fun to share with OCC her family's relationship with the fair, the building we are in, and specifically, what is her family's experience with the building?"

Cynthia for OCC: So, Kathy, I understand that the Thurston County Fair building, where the Olympia Camera Club has helped host the exhibitors, was named after your family. Tell me about it?

Kathy:

The Sokolik building was named specifically in honor of my Uncle Joe and Aunt Lois. They (like others in the family) volunteered for the fair for a very very long time. My Uncle Joe made willow whistles for all who asked. I know that sounds kind of small, but he had to gather the willow 2 or 3 months in advance, keep it in conditions that dried out the right part of the branches while keeping the cambium (sap) layer intact. The Daily Olympian ran an article about him in the 1980s and his work with the fair. *[I have the clipped article here somewhere -- looked for it where I thought it would be and failed to find it. I'm going to keep looking.]* My Aunt Lois was a long-time volunteer and eventually the superintendent for the Arts and Crafts building and exhibits. One of her granddaughters - now in her 50s - remembers that as a pre-teen, she helped her grandmother set up the exhibits. So they were probably active volunteers for 50+ years, is my best guess. (Joe died in 2012; Lois in 2014.)

Cynthia for OCC: How did their relationship with the Thurston County Fair begin?

Kathy:

Most of the Sokolik family have been involved in the TCF for as long as I can remember. It was just something we did. The Sokoliks homesteaded between Lacey and Yelm off of State Route 507, on land that is now owned

by the military. They were farmers - and thus Grange members. So, the agricultural fairs were just part of life. My dad's generation of Sokoliks grew up in the Yelm area. Some migrated to the Lacey/Olympia area. We still have a family farm on Route 507 (as well as on Marvin Road, and in Nisqually Valley) operated by my cousin and her husband. I remember going to the TCF and helping my cousin when I was a pre-teen. She showed cattle - black angus and shorthorns. Her mom (my Aunt Chris) was a 4H leader. I remember as a teenager, entering flowers and vegetables in open class (I probably still have some ribbons.) When my cousin married and they had a child, he became a 4H-er, then joined FFA -- showing pigs. Her husband is still involved and judges the hay. His sister is a long-time volunteer with the fair board. The fair is just something we always did -- it wasn't a decision to get involved, really. it was just part of how we grew up.

Cynthia for OCC: Do you know what the display space looked like when the building was named in 2008?

Kathy:

Not in any great detail. I lived in CA from 2002 - 2023, and though I visited family and friends in WA often, I only made it to the fair a couple of years. But I remember feeling like the Sokolik building (like much of the fairgrounds) needed freshened up. While living in CA, we made a point to attend the county fairs in the area -- Marin, Solano, and Napa counties - as well as the state fair in Sacramento a couple of times. With the exception of the Solano County fair, the fairs felt alive and vibrant (and crowded!) The Marin fair includes a fairly prestigious film festival/competition. I keep thinking about the TCF, and what it could do to grow participation.

Cynthia for OCC: How did you come to be part of that venue?

Kathy:

I have always taken pictures. My first camera -- received as a birthday gift when I was probably 7 or 8 - was a Brownie. I still have photos from my first roll of film. Not surprisingly, they are bad - a bit out of focus. I tried just about every new point-and-shoot camera released -- first 126 and then 110 film, the disc camera, an old slide camera my dad brought back from the Korean War. I have a box of old cameras I just haven't been able to let go of. I worked at Fotomat during college and took full advantage of my employee discount for film and processing. I loved doing darkroom work (B&W). It was such a quiet, calm place to be. And the magic of watching the photos appear in the developer tray. I ran across my binder of negatives and contact sheets recently, and that quiet, calm feeling came back. As part of a TESC college program, I spent about 5 months in Europe -

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

mostly in Italy - in 1979. I had the opportunity to see "Venezia '79 La Fotografia" while there. I still have the very heavy hard-bound exhibition guide from the event, that I periodically pull down from the bookcase and linger over.

<https://www.artforum.com/events/venezia-79-la-fotografia-231073/> "Venezia '79 La Fotografia"

Fast forward to today. I've been back living in WA for two years. Last year while at the Thurston County Fair, I visited the photography exhibits and met OCC members. I was going to be retiring soon, so I decided to join the club because of my lifelong love of photography. One of the items at the top of my "when I retire" list was to get back into photography again.

Cynthia for OCC: I met you while the OCC was cleaning, painting, and preparing the Sokolik building for this year's fair. What do you think of the building's current appearance?

Kathy:

So much brighter! A cousin was there post-painting party and said it just feels "clean" and much nicer. Whether the public will specifically notice the change, it's hard to say. But given exhibitors will see their art works in the space, I can't help but think they'll be happy!

Cynthia for OCC: I understand that you are a photographer, and will have an entry in the fair? What will we see from you?

Kathy:

I'm optimistic....I sent a couple of files off to be printed and mounted, and they are on their way back to me. (Currently in Seattle.) Once I get them, I'll decide if they're worthy. I haven't printed many photos over the past 10 years or so. Like a lot of people I know, I have hundreds of photos living in the cloud. So I'm anxious to see how what looks really nice on my monitor, translates to paper. The images I chose are close-ups (macros) of two plants in the rain. I took the photos on a trip to Alaska several years ago. I have to admit, I am feeling a little intimidated by the quality of images posted on the OCC Facebook page. But I can't improve unless I throw myself out there! So I am planning on going to the live judging and getting feedback not just on what I've submitted (hopefully), but also hearing what the judges say about others' images submitted for the fair.

Cynthia for OCC: Will the OCC be seeing more of you in the coming years?

Kathy:

I hope to become an active member. I'm still settling into a retirement "routine", working out the balance between doing and just being. There have been several club out-

ings that I am really sorry I couldn't make, so I'm going to do my best to participate in a few, as well as attend the regular club meetings. At the painting party I felt like I met some kindred spirits, so I'm looking forward to getting to meet more fellow photographers.

Cynthia for OCC: Thank you, Kathy, for sharing your family's Thurston County Fair experience with the OCC. Best wishes for your upcoming fair entry!

Some Thoughts on Taste and Judging

by Dennis Plank

When Christy and I were closing down at the fair on Monday, I snagged our daily tally sheets for the People's Choice awards to look at the distributions of votes. I don't think I've reached any profound conclusions, but the small number of votes received by the winners do reveal just how varied people's tastes can be. In the Adult category, with a lot more images to choose from it was particularly apparent. The winners received:

Thursday	12 votes
Friday	15 votes
Saturday	15 votes
Sunday	11 votes

This is from a total vote count of about 1,500 for the fair. Just scanning the data, five or six votes on any given day was quite a good showing. As one would expect when people are looking for the "best", there were many images that received no votes at all, but surprisingly about two-thirds of the images did receive at least one vote.

While I don't have the judging results handy, if my memory serves me, while most of the People's Choice images did receive some kind of ribbon, it was often a second or third place, and the Best of Show and best Monochrome for adult didn't show up particularly well in our visitors' opinions. This raises interesting questions for those who want to make money off their photography, particularly "fine art" photography where you are encouraged to enter competitions and juried exhibitions. Should you really spend your time and money on those, or would it make more sense to spend it on marketing and just getting your images in front of lots of people? Since I've never made any money at this gig, I wouldn't venture to answer that.

The youth exhibit, with only 43 entries and over 1,300 total votes over the course of the fair, shows much more dramatic differences. The top total vote getter which didn't win the People's Choice until Sunday, ended up col-

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

lecting over 100 of those votes. On the day they won, the winners received:

Thursday	33 votes
Friday	29 votes
Saturday	40 votes
Sunday	38 votes

Still only two to three times the adult vote count with nearly seven times more votes/image available. I suspect friends and family may have boosted some of the images that would have received few, if any votes in the adult class in the youth section. Appropriately, in my opinion, every youth entry received at least three votes.

What I wish I knew years ago about photography

submitted by Bill Ballard

The following is provided by Jim Nix, a professional photographer, from his latest newsletter. It is simple photography advice he wished he knew sooner. There are some things here that we all can relate to that can make us better photographers. Thanks to Jim for the following:

- Create for yourself, not others
- Nobody is really paying close attention, so do what you want
- If you like it, it's a good photo
- Don't copy someone/something that is popular - shoot/edit however you like
- Follower counts don't matter
- Everybody takes a lot of terrible photos
- Photographers are only showing their good shots
- Social media is just a highlight reel - it's not even close to reality most of the time
- It's ok to shoot super popular spots and take the standard shot everyone else takes
- Yes, it's also good to try and do something original there, but that's hard to do most of the time
- Sunrise is generally better than sunset, and definitely better in cities
- Nobody knows everything about photography
- You're a better photographer than you think you are
- You are ahead of some photographers and behind others in certain areas
- Help those that you can help - pay it forward - because it takes a long time to learn on your own
- You will never stop learning about photography
- Pay attention to the light more than anything else when editing

- Composition makes or breaks an image
- Foregrounds!
- Gear matters but only to a certain point
- You don't need to bring all your gear on a trip
- Your shots will be better when you slow down and think about the shot more
- You will never shoot it all
- Take the shot because you never know if something will change
- Learn the buttons and dials on your camera as well as you can, so you don't always have to look at them
- Enjoy every chance you get to work on photography, because it is a joy
- Don't take things too seriously

If you would like to get Jim Nix's free newsletter, here is the link <https://jimnix.com/free>.

Ride Your Enthusiasm!

by Cynthia A Whelan

Has something recently inspired you to take a photograph? A movie, scenery, seeing a flower, or a bird? Last month, I was inspired by the photography on display at the Thurston County Fair.

In addition to the Thurston County Fair, I had three additional very fun and educational photographic excursions. I photographed flowers on the OCC Bee Inspired Garden field trip. I went back to that location with a group of photography friends and taught myself how to photograph the Milky Way. I also attended an OCC Members Only Facebook Page "pop-up" gathering to photograph dragonflies at McLane Nature Trail.



When I feel the energy and insight from an experience, I get an "I wish I took that photo" moment. Then, to utilize that feeling, I give myself a personal photography pro-

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

ject. I will set my intentions and devise a plan to create something new.

I am so happy with my June inspiration trips. I have chosen a personal project to take photos for specific County Fair Lot categories. I am committing now. *“In 2026, I will enter a photograph in the lots: Computer Generated, Still Life, and People.”*



Did a photograph inspire you at the fair, or maybe you wanted to enter your photographs, but you didn’t? Now is a good time to think about your photography, make a simple plan, make a statement about what you want to do, then set reminders and do it! I bet that if you do this, you will surprise yourself by creating beautiful images that you can enthusiastically share at next year’s Thurston County Fair.

Membership Report
by Colleen Easley

Our 2025 membership is now up to 166 members—and we’re excited to welcome five new members who joined us this past month:

- Laurie Hatton
- Landon James
- Dawn Voss
- Kristi Rarick
- Karina Murphy



Please join us in giving them a warm Olympia Camera Club welcome! We’re glad to have you with us.

OCC Traveling Images Results for June and July
submitted by Rosalind Philips

OCC images were judged by The Seattle Photographic Society. The top five images are listed below with their score. You can go to <https://nwcameraclubs.org/tis100/> if you would like to view the images. Please email traveling.prints@olympiacameraclub.org if you would like to know your score and your image was not in the top five.

ID	Title	Score
103	Incoming	8
110	The Sneaky Three	8
124	Fungi	8
102	Mt. Shuksan Reflection	7
123	Skimming	7

It’s nice to see that different top pictures are chosen by the clubs.

In June the OCC images were judged by The Bellingham Photograph Club. The top four images are listed below with their score. You can go to <https://nwcameraclubs.org/tis100/> if you would like to view the images. Please email traveling.prints@olympiacameraclub.org if you would like to know your score and your image was not in the top list for June.

ID	Title	Score
124	Fungi	6
104	More Than He Can Chew	6
103	Incoming	4
109	The Wise Sunset Hunter	4



Traveling Image Competition Update

by Colleen Easley

The votes are in for the July round of the Northwest Council of Camera Clubs (NWCCC) Traveling Image Competition! This month, we reviewed submissions from the Bainbridge Island Camera Club, and their top-scoring images were:

Artistry of the Waves - 17 points

You Are in Trouble - 11 points

Dappled Light - 10 points

Canadian Aurora - 10 points

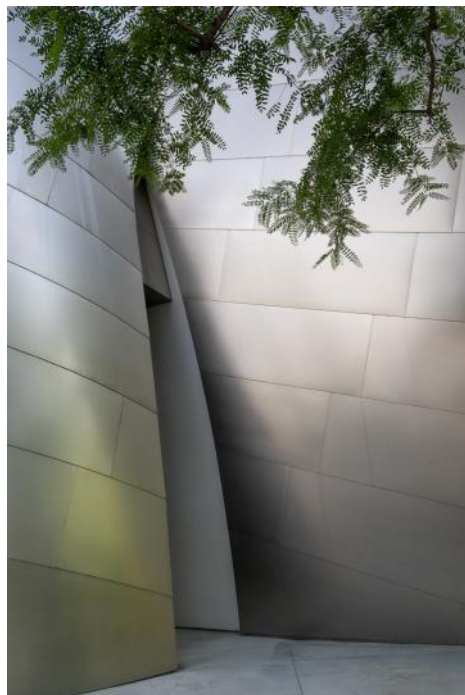
Hidden Passage - 9 points

These images are displayed below—take a look!

During August, it's our turn to vote on images from the Rainier Hills Photo Club. You should have received an email with links to view the images and submit your votes. If not, you can access both directly at: olympiacameraclub.org/nwccc-traveling-images

Voting deadline: August 25

Thanks for participating and helping support our fellow clubs!



Thurston County Fair Results 2025

Name	Title	Ribbon(s)
Ballard, William	Mt. Shurksan Reflection	First
Ballard, William	Harbor Night	Third
Barrowcliff, Dawn	On the Prowl	Best of Lot, First
Barrowcliff, Dawn	Fish Party!!	Best of Lot, First
Barrowcliff, Dawn	Dragonflies for lunch (Female Common Throat Warbler)	First
Barrowcliff, Dawn	Busy Bee	Second
Barrowcliff, Dawn	"Oh no! Someone dropped their teddy bear!"	Second
Barrowcliff, Dawn	Riding the Wave	Third
Barrowcliff, Dawn	Osprey with fish	Third
Bradley, Susan	Roadside Memories	Second
Bradley, Susan	Final Curtain	Third
Buechel, Kim	Fishing Buddies	Third
Buechel, Kim	Anhinga Beauty	Third
Buechel, Kim	Catching Lunch	Honorable
Buechel, Kim	Wildlife Photographer	Honorable
Cote, Adrianne	Mini Crystal Carousel	First
Cote, Adrianne	Aurora Borealis	Second
Cote, Adrianne	Avenue of the Giants	Third
Cote, Adrianne	Beads	Honorable
Cote, Adrianne	Miniature Teapot	Honorable
Decker, Bruce	Three musketeers	First
Decker, Bruce	Kewpies	Second
Decker, Bruce	Morocco	Honorable
Decker, Bruce	No Kings	People's Choice
Dillon, Robert	Vietnamese Woman Tending Incense Display	First
Dillon, Robert	Mechanism in an Abandoned Montana Silo	Second
Dillon, Robert	Violet-Tailed Sylph	Second, People's Choice
Dillon, Robert	Fall Colors with Bald Cypress	Third
Dillon, Robert	Hoodoo in Eastern Montana Badlands	Third
Dillon, Robert	Trio of Lion Cubs	Third
Dillon, Robert	Grey Go-Away Bird in Botswana	Honorable

Dimitratos, Don	Warp 10	First
Dimitratos, Don	Egg & Wrench	First
Dimitratos, Don	Pinnacles	Second
Dimitratos, Don	Shaklee Building	Third
Dimitratos, Don	Whirl	Honorable
Ferris, Clair	Basilica of St. Nicholas Amersterdam	Best of Lot, First, Judge's Award
Ferris, Clair	London City Hall	First
Ferris, Clair	Cowgirl - Low Light	Second
Ferris, Clair	Red Dahlia	Third
Ferris, Clair	Grand Canyon Lodge 1937-2025	Third
Ferris, Matt	Splash - Youth Football	Best of Lot, First, People's Choice
Ferris, Matt	Darth Vader - Artist	Second
Gerecht, John	Elena with Hat	Best of Show, Best of Class, Best of Lot,
Gerecht, John	Profile of Astrid	Third
Gerecht, John	Capital	Honorable
Gerecht, John	Girl in Green	Honorable
Gerecht, John	Elena in White	Honorable
Gerecht, John	Soft Astrid	Honorable
Helbrecht, Lynn	Red Bud in Vase	Best of Lot, First
Helbrecht, Lynn	Yucca Abstraction	Second
Helbrecht, Lynn	Taos Landscape	Second
Hoaglund, Pam	1940's International KB-2	Second, Superintendent's Award
Hoaglund, Pam	It's Mine	Second
Hoaglund, Pam	Foothills Sunrise	Honorable
Hoaglund, Pam	Mama and Cubs	Honorable
Hoselton, Teri	Fungi	First
Hoselton, Teri	Tranquil	Second
Hoselton, Teri	Frozen in Time	Superintendent's Award
James, Landon	Quick Sip	Third, People's Choice
James, Landon	Sitting	Honorable
James, Landon	Soaring	Honorable

Lesar, William	Itsy Bitsy Spider - Not!	First
Lesar, William	Copenhagen Quay	First
Lesar, William	Just Five More Minutes	First
Lesar, William	Flying Aces	Second
Lesar, William	Floating Overhead	Second
Lesar, William	Oh Deer!	Second
Lesar, William	Day's End	Third
Lesar, William	Vermilion Flycatcher	Honorable
Lilly, Judith	Busy Bee	Honorable
Lilly, Judith	Sunset	Honorable
Mason, Judy	Orange Dahlia	Second
Mason, Judy	2 Crows In The Big Leaf Maple	Honorable
Nelson, Nancy	Whatever it is, I'm in!	First
Nelson, Nancy	Coming in Hot	First
Nelson, Nancy	Grey-breasted Mountain-Toucan	First
Nelson, Nancy	Snack Attack!	Second
Nelson, Nancy	Eagle eye	Third
Nelson, Nancy	Disco Dave strutting his stuff	Third
Philips, Rosalind	Alaska Moose Splashing	Honorable
Plank, Dennis	Female Purple Martin	Best of Class, Best of Lot, First
Plank, Dennis	Rialto Beach	Best of Lot, First
Plank, Dennis	Concentration	Best of Lot, First
Plank, Dennis	White Sands Camas	First
Plank, Dennis	Splash!	Second
Plank, Dennis	Spring	Second
Plank, Dennis	Why?	Honorable
Rigel, Valentina	Horse	Second
Rigel, Valentina	Wild Turkey	Third
Smith, Brad	Early Morning Row	Third
Smith, Brad	Smooth Sailing	Honorable
Smith, Brad	Sweet Nuthins	People's Choice

Sterling, Gwen	Behind the Scenes	First
Sterling, Gwen	Shadows at the Locks	Third
Sterling, Gwen	Reflection	Third
Sterling, Gwen	Self Portrait	Third
Sterling, Tysen	He's Got the Rhythm	Youth Best of Show, Best of Class, Best of Lot, First
Sterling, Tysen	Iceland Foss	Best of Lot, First, People's Choice
Sterling, Tysen	Puffin in Flight	Best of Lot, First
Sterling, Tysen	Through the Smoke	First, People's Choice
Sterling, Tysen	Portrait of a Puffin	First
Sterling, Tysen	American Mink in Iceland	Second, People's Choice
Sterling, Tysen	Drops on Dahlia	Third
Sterling, Tysen	Seattle by Night	Third
Tromble, Dale	Seafoam Kittens	Honorable
Tromble, Dale	Saxophone	Honorable
Tromble, Dale	Princess	Honorable
Walton, Townsend	Bleeding Hearts	Third
Walton, Townsend	Green Beans and Green Peppers	Third
Walton, Townsend	Willow, Our Little Pup	Honorable
Walton, Townsend	Multi Image	Honorable
Walton, Townsend	Crow's Breath	Honorable
Whelan, Cynthia	Buena Vista Sunset, Bakersfield, California	Second
Whelan, Cynthia	Reaching for the Light	Third
Whelan, Cynthia	Shari Elf's Crochet Blanket Emporium	Honorable
Whelan, Cynthia	A Two Party System, Upsidedown and Backwards	Honorable

Olympia Camera Club Board Meeting August 5, 2025 Zoom Draft

Officers and Members Present:

Dennis Plank, President, Chuck Hall, Vice-President, John Damitios, Treasurer, Rene' L. Conger, Secretary, Colleen Easley, Membership Coordinator, Susan Bradley, Newsletter Editor, Bruce Livingston, Community Liaison, Rosalind Phillips, Traveling Prints, Terri Hoselton, Field Trip Coordinator, Adrienne Cote, Social Committee Coordinator, Pam Hoaglund, PSA Representative, Rene' L. Conger, NWCCC Delegate, Don Dimitratos, Member sharing Committee, Chuck Hall, General Photography Group, Rick Flegel, Practical Photography Group, Dennis Plank & Christy Sterling, Thurston County Fair, and Colleen Easley, Webmaster

Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Adrienne Cote made a motion, Susan Bradley seconded, to approve last month's minutes as read. Approval was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

August 5, 2025

July 1 - July 31, 2025

WSECU Checking

Starting Balance (7/1/25)	\$6,497.39
DEPOSITS	
Total Deposits	0.00
EXPENSES	
Technology - Adobe Subscription	16.46
Community Outreach - TCF	946.34
Total Expenses	962.80
Ending Balance (7/31/25)	\$5,534.59

WSECU Savings

Starting Balance (7/1/25)	\$4,095.15
Dividend Interest	0.53
Ending Balance (7/31/25)	\$4,095.68
PayPal Balance	\$ 337.95
Total Balance	\$9,968.22

Starting Checking Balance \$6,409.39
 Thurston County Fair (check) \$946.34
 Ending Balance of \$5,534.59
 Savings increased by 53 cents, to total \$4,095.68
 We have a Paypal balance of \$337.95
 Total Cash \$9,968.22

The debit card has expired. The treasurer will need to go to the bank.

A question was raised about the Adobe expense. Discussion ensued. It is a basic Photographers Package. Rosalind Phillips will track its usage, and we will read-dress it later.

Committee Reports:

Equipment/Teleconferencing: No report

Membership Report: We have six new members, bringing our total to 166.

President's Report: After the Fair, I received an email from Judy Kubes, Tacoma Photography Society. She's interested in working with us to figure out how to get more participation in the club. I'm going to work with them. If anyone else is interested, or has ideas, for this please drop me a line.

Community Liaison: Bruce Livingston and Clair Ferris are photographing the Schmidt House Foundation on August 9, 2025.

General Meeting: Discussion ensued about finding presenters. It was suggested to work with Practical Photography Group and pool ideas. Pam Hoaglund offered to send both Chuck Hall and Rick Flegel a list of PSA Presenters for a variety of subjects.

Practical Photography: Rick had a possible Pet Photographer for a presentation but has lost contact with them. He is starting at square one again.

Member sharing: September is Lens Focal Point. October will be Camouflage.

Social Chair: The Planning Picnic will be postponed until August 28, at Squaxin Park, in Olympia. Discussion ensued on the details which will follow.

Newsletter: I need a short article about the Digital Photo Salon Competition being open. I'll need a write up on August Traveling prints.

Webmaster: Members are having difficulty getting emails. A discussion ensued, and Colleen is working on it. There have also been difficulties with Dropbox. It was determined that some members may not know how to use it. Again, Colleen is working on it. She'll be sending an email out concerning both these issues and adding a PS with a link for them to click and have access to member sharing.

Thurston County Fair: The fair is done. We had 31 volunteers. A big thank you to Rosalind Phillips for adjusting her software to work with the Fair's new online system. A discussion ensued with many suggestions for next year's fair.

Field Trips: We had six people for the WSU extension trip. There was a pop-up trip to McClane, in which ten people participated. Nancy Nelson and her husband will

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

be having a field trip to their house on August 27. Susan will be leading a field trip to an animal shelter in September.

NWCCC: We have been having special meetings for the fall conference. There's one more this month, then the regular meeting in September. The Digital Competition is now open. Thiabault Roland will be the speaker. We are actively researching the venue.

NPPNW: No report

PSA: The PSA photo festival is going to be at the end of September. Their field trip will be at the Portland Rose Garden. PSA announced it has officially launched a free two-year student membership program to support and inspire young photographers. It is available to photographers who are currently enrolled in school, whether in middle, high school or college. Must have valid Student ID.

Old business: No report on club poster for Thurston County Fair next year.

Suggestions have been made to reduce our cash on hand. There was discussion.

There was an inquiry about how much our judges are reimbursed for doing their part.

Pam Hoaglund made a motion, Chuck Hall seconded, that as a club we compensate our fair judges one hundred dollars apiece, raising it to \$225.00. Approval was unanimous.

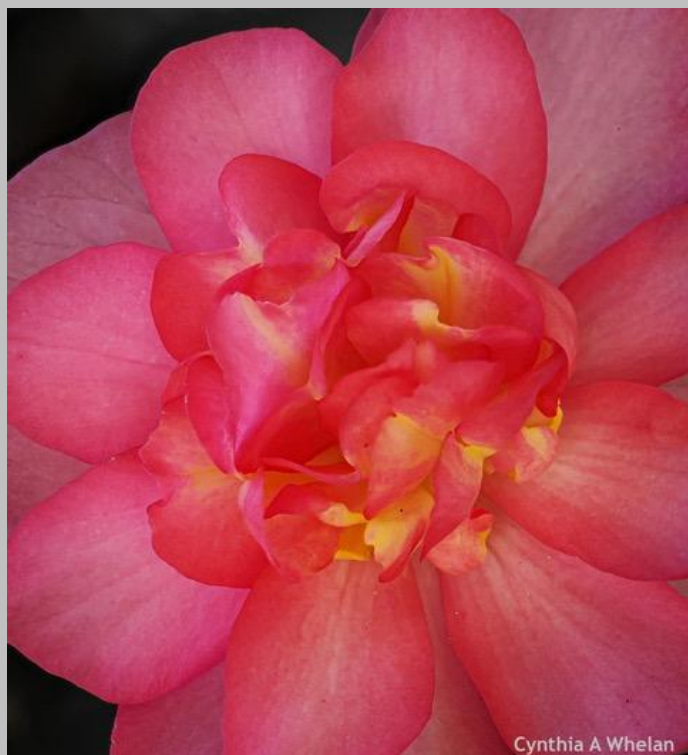
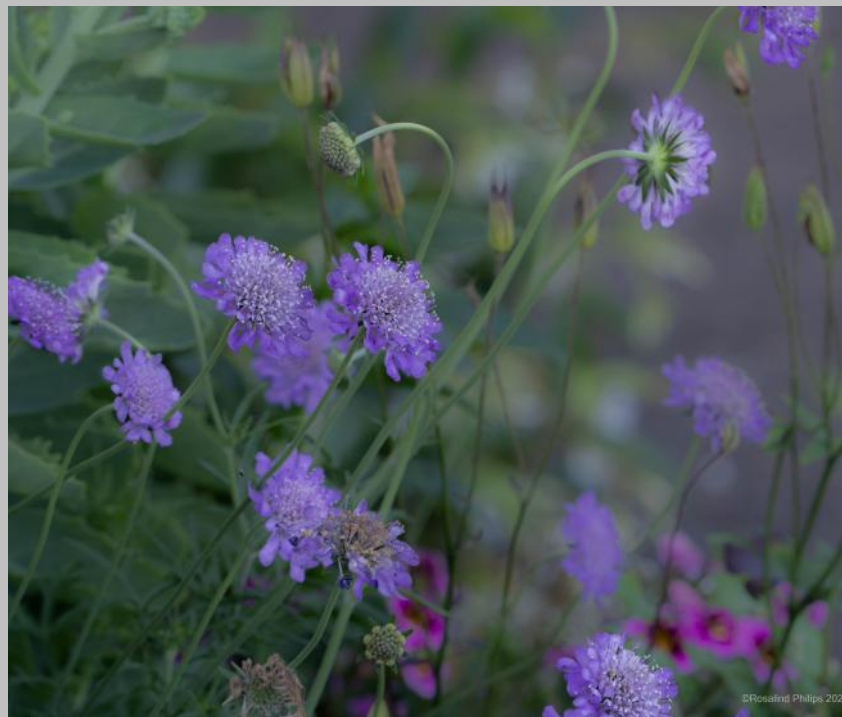
Adjourn Meeting: Dennis Plank made a motion, Don Dimitratos seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Adjournment was voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Rene' L. Conger, Secretary

Field Trip Bee Inspired Garden Gallery



Field Trip Bee Inspired Garden Gallery continued



**Field Trip Bee Inspired Garden Gallery
continued**



Cynthia A Whelan



Cynthia A Whelan

Field Trip Quartercircle 2C Ranch Gallery



Member Gallery



Member Gallery continued



Member Gallery
continued



Member Gallery
continued



Member Gallery
continued



Member Gallery
continued



Photographic Society of America (PSA)

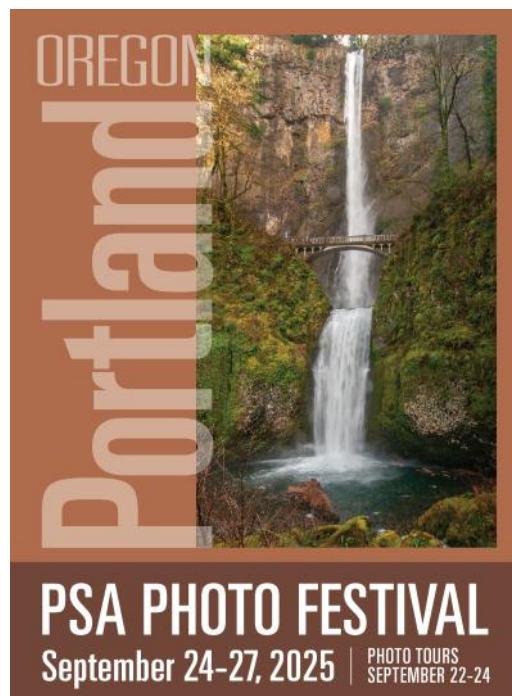
PSA is a worldwide organization for anyone with an interest in photography. Founded in 1934, the Society is for casual shutterbugs, serious amateurs, and professional photographers.

Individual digital membership is \$45 a year.

Membership offers a wide variety of services and activities:

1. Monthly Journal
2. Online photo galleries
3. Image evaluation
4. Study groups and courses
5. Competitions
6. Annual Conference
7. Discounts on photography-related products/services
8. PSA travel aide
9. Webinars

For a complete overview of membership benefits go to the PSA [link](#).



Sizing Images for Newsletter

Format: jpeg, max quality

Dimension: 1024 - 2048 pix long side

Please keep images 3MB or less

Please title your image and include your name in title

Title_Your Name

Please Watermark your image!

All photographs in this newsletter are under copyright protection. They may not be used without permission from the individual photographers.

Please submit articles and photographs to:

newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org

Deadline for articles and images for the September newsletter is September 4 at midnight.

Editor's Note:

Please continue to submit images and articles to the newsletter as it is your participation that helps me provide you with a newsletter each month.



Susan Bradley, Editor
newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org

Executive Committee**President**

Dennis Plank

Vice President

Chuck Hall

Secretary

Rene' Conger

Treasurer

John Damitio

Associate Memberships**Committee Chairs****Community Liaison**

Bruce Livingston

Equipment Custodian

Rosalind Philips

**NWCCC Traveling Print &
Open Salon Competitions**

Colleen Easley and Rosalind Phillips

Field Trip Coordinator

Terri Hoselton

Membership

Colleen Easley

Practical Photography

Rick Flegel

Member Sharing Night

Don Dimitratos

General Meeting

Chuck Hall

Newsletter Editor

Susan Bradley

PSA Representative

Pam Hoaglund

Thurston County FairDennis Plank and
Christy Sterling**NPPNW Liaison**

Gerald Pumphery

NWCCC Liaison

Rene' Conger

Scavenger Hunt

Rosalind Philips

Webmaster

Colleen Easley

Social Committee

Adrienne Cote

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